

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

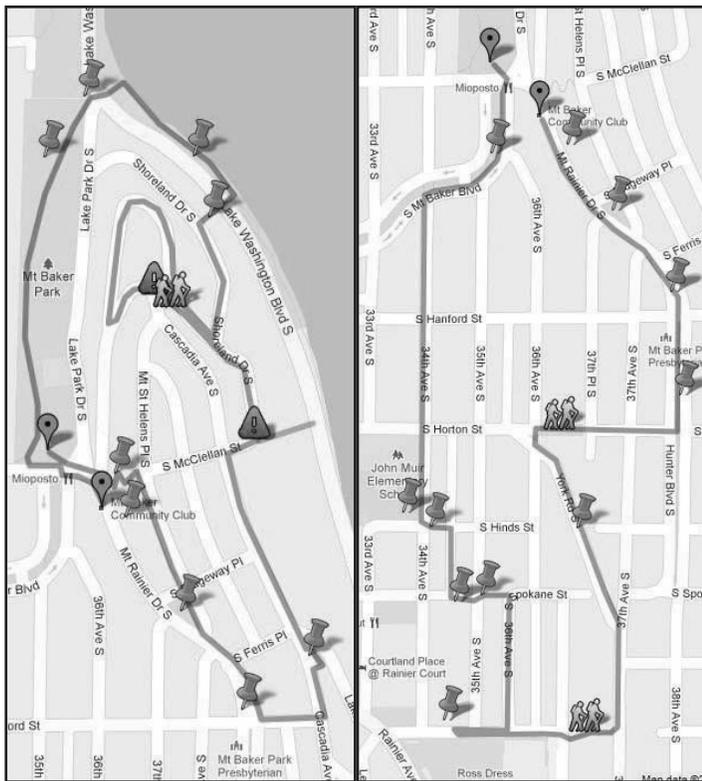
By the MBCC Parks & Open Spaces Committee

NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOURS (AT DAY IN THE PARK) ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 23

Hello neighbors! The Parks & Open Spaces committee wants to raise the profile of the leafy green amenities in our community, especially the smaller, tucked away ones. We also want to highlight the good work that neighborhood volunteers have been doing to restore and improve some of the open space passageways that provide not only welcoming green spaces, but pedestrian connections in our neighborhood. To show off our parks and passageways, we're hosting two neighborhood walking tours during Day in the Park (**September 23rd**).

The walking tours will be suitable for all ages, but we figure they will provide an adult counterpoint to the kid-centric programming in Mount Baker Park during the festivities. We will conduct two tours of approximately 1.5 miles each, departing from the Community Club booth at Day in the Park at 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Both tours start in the same place, but the first tour takes a southern loop, and the second takes a northern loop. Choose either one or do both back-to-back!

Website with occasional updates about MBCC's Parks and Open Spaces work: mountbaker.org/parks--open-space-committee.html.



EXCITING PROGRESS HAPPENING AT THE CHARLESTOWN HILLCLIMB

By Judith Yarrow, co-chair, Friends of Charlestown Hillclimb, MBCC Parks and Open Spaces Committee

Progress! We made a lot happen with the Hillclimb project this summer. Seattle Dept. of Transportation was able to complete the majority of the stairway and the landing. The stairway includes a bike trough that bicyclists can use to walk their bikes up or down the hill. Still to come are the permanent handrails and the final walkway at the top of the hill. They expect to complete those two amenities next summer.

Along with the good news about the stairway, the Friends of Charlestown Hillclimb (FCH) are moving forward with landscaping the Hillclimb. In June, the Dept. of Neighborhoods awarded the group \$10,000 to hire a landscape architect to create a planting plan. FCH received 32 proposals and selected Johnson-Southerland, a local firm with offices in Columbia City. Johnson-Southerland has done many projects in southeast Seattle including the Seward Park playground and the comprehensive trail plan so we are familiar with their good work.

On Aug. 21 FCH hosted a public meeting to gather input from the community. Using the community input and working with the FCH steering committee, Johnson-Southerland is developing two design options, which they will present at the Mount Baker Community Club membership meeting on Sept. 10. We urge you to come to the community meeting on Sept. 10th at the Clubhouse to view and discuss the proposed landscape options.

FCH plans to implement the landscape design with volunteers over a two-year period of time. The group will seek additional grants and donations to fund implementation of the plan. FCH's goal is to have an SDOT permit in hand, in time to start the first phase of clearing and planting, in late Oct. 2012.

Again, FCH invites your participation in the Hillclimb project. Your cash, in-kind, and labor donations are crucial for completing this project. And we always welcome your help at the monthly maintenance parties (**4th Saturdays, 10:00-12:00, March through October**). Email us at info@charlestownhillclimb.org for information or to be added to our email list. You can also find more information about the Hillclimb on our Web site: www.charlestownhillclimb.org.



Seattle Dept. of Transportation crew pouring the Hillclimb stairway landing. After the landing was poured, they stamped a pattern of raindrops and cherry blossoms. Photographer: Judith Yarrow