

## 'Community Invited to Help Visualize Westpark'

By Steven Gardner



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The Bremerton Housing Authority is planning a series of meetings, most open to local residents, to help craft the new Westpark. Kathryn Jerkovich, project manager for Westpark development consultant Marathon Development, said the effort May 8 to 12 is intended to come up with a preferred redevelopment plan for the 82-acre public housing complex.

The existing public housing near Highway 3 and Kitsap Way was built in the 1940s as Navy housing. Later it was turned into a neighborhood for low-income and disabled people.

"It will be the starting point for them to develop and refine for the master planning process," she said. Designers, architects and residents will be involved in a series of planning meetings called a design charrette. That will follow a trip housing authority board members will take Saturday to visit projects built by similar agencies in Pierce and King counties.

Jerkovich said the week will include scheduled conversations between Westpark designers and agencies such as the Bremerton Public Works Department, Kitsap Transit, Bremerton Mayor Cary Bozeman and Bremerton police and fire officials.

Local residents also will be invited to ask questions and throw in ideas during much of the process. Some current Westpark residents will have homes within the existing acreage, while a larger portion will move to other neighborhoods.

The housing authority is in the process of acquiring other properties to make room for Westpark residents. In early April, the agency bought the 148-unit Erlands Point apartment complex near the Naval Hospital.

The term 'charrette', though not found in many dictionaries, is becoming a common term among planners that suggests an intensive meeting process to come up with a final design. In most cases it's a collaborative process involving many parties — in this case, designers and the public.

Bainbridge Island incorporated the charrette concept for its Winslow Tomorrow process, which produced a far-reaching plan for the island's downtown core.

For Westpark, local residents will be invited to an open house on May 8 and to design sessions May 9 to 11. A May 12 daylong meeting will be for designers, followed by a final presentation the evening of May 12.