UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM #2

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM
A community conversation

THE U DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

CITY OF SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM #2

WELCOME
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM #2

Project Goal

Create a community-owned plan for providing & improving public spaces & parks in the University District.
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Roles

Community members

U District Square

University District Partnership (UDP)

Steering Group

Dep’t of Planning & Development (DPD)

Parks & Recreation

University of Washington

Consultants:

Steering Group Members:

- Rebecca Barnes, University Architect, Capital & Campus Planning
- Doug Campbell, Business Owner
- Cory Crocker, University District Square & Resident
- Marty Curry, University of Washington Urban Planning instructor
- Theresa Doherty, University of Washington Regional & Community Relations
- Jeanette Henderson, University of Washington Real Estate
- Kristine Kenney, University of Washington Landscape Architect
- Dave LaClergue, City of Seattle Department of Planning & Development
- Dorothy Lengyel, University District Parking Associates & Resident
- Elizabeth McCoury, University District Partnership (CEO)
- Chip Nevins, Seattle Parks & Recreation
- Barbara Quinn, University Park Community Club
- Ruedi Risler, University Park Community Club
- Scott Soules, Property Owner, University District Parking Associates
- Roger Wagoner, Resident
- Steve Wilkins, University District Community Council & Resident
Meeting Goal

Identify the kinds of spaces & connections that are desired along with design criteria.

2006 U District Parks Plan: Relevant Priorities

- "A centrally located park, approximately one-half acre in a high-volume pedestrian area with current or projected multi-family mixed-use buildings; this type of park should be designed to accommodate a variety of recreation uses."

- "A number of smaller plazas in high-volume pedestrian areas."
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Project Timetable

10/8/14 COMMUNITY MEETING #1
Values & Activities

10/30/14 COMMUNITY MEETING #2
Physical Spaces

12/3/14 COMMUNITY MEETING #3
Pathways to Success

CONSULTANT WORK
Assemble Findings

CONSULTANT WORK
Draft Open Space Plan

CONSULTANT WORK
Revised Open Space Plan

STEERING GROUP
Verify Findings

STEERING GROUP
Verify Findings

STEERING GROUP
Verify Findings

U District Partnership
Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Planning and Development
Agenda

PRESENTATION
- Welcome
- Findings from Community Meeting #1
- Lessons Learned from Portland’s Urban Parks

WORK SESSION
- Small Group Discussions
- Share & Revisions

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN
Question #1

What guiding *principles* or *values* do you propose for developing open space in the University District?
Inclusiveness

- Parks & open spaces for all, welcoming to everyone of all ages & abilities
- Inclusiveness in the planning & design
- Collaboration between the University of Washington & the U District community
- Flexible & multiple uses
Safety

- Well managed spaces
- Activated by adjacent uses
- Clean, well-lit, monitored & maintained open spaces
- Welcoming & hospitable
Neighborhood Identity

- Town center that defines identity
- Centrally located public space near the transit center
- U District becomes known as a neighborhood characterized by a network of open spaces
- Integrated art
Livability

• Activated 24 hours/day
• People have places to sit
• Spaces with public restrooms
• Work in all seasons
• Good solar exposure
• Creative & artful spaces
• Ephemeral/renewable art
• Water features
• Bike parking
Connectivity

- Co-location with transit
- Centrally located public space that serves as an identifying “town center” for the U-District
- Extend & link open spaces
- Way-finding
- Gateway to UW
- Good pedestrian connections
Connection to Nature

• Spaces abundant with green & natural areas
• Support biodiversity & wildlife
• Passive water treatment
• Interaction with water & its sounds
Variety of Spaces

- Destination spaces
- Pedestrian-only spaces
- Pedestrian meeting spaces
- Spaces for children
- Gardens
- Rooftop public spaces
- Public spaces on streets – increased ‘spaciness’
- Abundant green spaces
- Restful & relaxing spaces
- Gathering places
- Intimate seating & people-watching
Question 2

Given the suggested guiding principles & values, what kind of functions & activities do you envision?
Socializing & Meeting People

- Street fairs
- Markets
- Sporting events
- Soap boxes
- Dance & exercise
- Demonstrations
Eating & Drinking

- Dinner & drinks outside
- Food trucks
- Eat lunch
Musical Performances & Outdoor Movies

- Outdoor movies & performances
- Street musicians
Playing for all Ages

- Climbing wall
- Swings for adults
- Basketball court
- Features for people with disabilities
Sitting & Relaxing

- Napping or Sleeping
- Relaxing
- Reading
- Study in public (Wi-Fi)
- Sitting & observing; People watching
Interacting with Nature

- Places to learn about plants & nature
- Gardening
- Physical interaction with water & water sounds
A tension between the desire for places that are safe & orderly & the desire for places that are social & spontaneous.
A tension between wanting vibrant populated spaces & spaces for calmness & quiet.
A desire for both a centrally located 'heart' area & a wide range of connected spaces serving multiple functions.
The tension between preserving residential open spaces/backyards while accommodating thousands of new units in the next 20 years.
LESSONS LEARNED FROM PORTLAND’S URBAN PARKS
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Key Elements for Success

- Location
- Surrounding Land Use
- Park features & Design
- Programming
- Maintenance & Security
- Community Participation & investment
The Pearl District
Network of Parks
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Park Types

Public Square  A Neighborhood Park  Quiet Garden

Connectors
Criteria for Public Square
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Criteria for Quiet Garden
Criteria for Neighborhood Park
Management & Operation of Urban Parks

- Programming
- Maintenance
- Security
- Management Responsibility
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Programming
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Maintenance
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Management Responsibility
Summary of Key Elements

- Collaborative approach to needs assessment, design, & management
- Importance of location & adequacy of size
- Accessibility to primary users
- Visibility from streets & adjacent uses
- Quality of design & construction
- Elevated level of programming, maintenance, & security
WORK SESSION
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The Design Process

10/8/14
COMMUNITY MEETING #1
PRINCIPLES & VALUES

10/30/14
COMMUNITY MEETING #2
PEOPLE & ACTIVITIES

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES

DESIGN CONCEPT

12/03/14
COMMUNITY MEETING #3
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM WORKSHOP #2
Program Worksheet

| Community values | Physical | Est. cost | Location
|-----------------|---------|----------|--------|
| Traditional     | Trees   | $10,000  | U District
| Innovative      | Flowers | $15,000  | Regional

...
Community Parks
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Plazas
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Street Closures
Brooklyn/43rd streetscape plans are out for public review [www.seattle.gov/dpd/udistrict](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/udistrict)
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Green Roofs & Amenity Spaces
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In Between Spaces

Note: Image of UW property.
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Community Gardens
Residential Streets
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Active Spaces
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Play (for adults too)

Note: Image of UW property.
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Shores & Trails
2035 Projected Open Space Deficit

4.9 ac. = approx. 2 blocks
the size of University Heights
Tonight’s Work Session

PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

- List potential elements/spaces
- Develop location criteria
- Identify performance standards

ALTERNATIVE SCHEMES

- Locate elements on maps provided
- Consider connections
# Program Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Functions &amp; Activities</th>
<th>Potential Design Elements (i.e., sidewalk cafes, playground, signage)</th>
<th>Location Criteria (e.g., to access sunlight)</th>
<th>Size (e.g., number of people)</th>
<th>For Who &amp; When</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Socializing &amp; Meeting People</td>
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Mapping Alternative Schemes
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Ground Rules

- Everyone participates, together we know more
- Engage, not recruit
- Practice generosity
- No jargon
- Be positive; propose something better
- Be civil, no blaming, no accusations
- Be willing to change your mind when hearing new information
- Look for solutions where all can succeed
TONIGHT’S WORK SESSION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (45 min)
- 25 minutes - identify physical elements
- 15 minutes - map your open space system
- 5 minutes - select top 3 elements

PRESENTATION & REVISIONS (30 min)
- 10 minutes - present top 3 element
- 10 minutes - revise with small group
- 10 minutes - present final ideas
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Stay Involved

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETINGS:
December 3, 7-9 pm

MINUTES & REPORTS @:
www.udistrictpartnership.org