UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM #3

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM
A community conversation
WELCOME
Project Goal

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

Product

Update the *University District Park Plan*
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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
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Project Timetable

- **10/7/14**
  - **COMMUNITY MEETING #1**
  - Values & Activities
  - STEERING GROUP

- **10/30/14**
  - **COMMUNITY MEETING #2**
  - Physical Spaces
  - STEERING GROUP
  - Verify Findings

- **12/3/14**
  - **COMMUNITY MEETING #3**
  - Pathways to Success
  - CONSULTANT WORK
  - Draft Open Space Plan
  - STEERING GROUP
  - Verify Findings

- **U District Partnership**
- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Dept. of Planning and Development**
Goal of Tonight

Update of work-to-date & invite public comments regarding:

- Recommended elements
- Implementation strategies
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Agenda

Findings

Recommended actions

- Activate existing & planned parks
- Pocket parks
- UW campus edge
- East-west pedestrian connections
- North-south green spine
- Publicly-owned central square

Discussion

Summary & closing remarks
Principles or Values

• Inclusiveness
• Safety
• Neighborhood identity
• Livability
• Connectivity
• Connection to nature
• Variety of spaces
Functions & Activities

- Socializing & meeting people
- Eating & drinking
- Musical performances & outdoor movies
- Playing for all ages
- Sitting & relaxing
- Interacting with nature
Key Elements for Urban Parks

- Collaborative approach to needs assessment, design, & management
- Importance of location & size
- Accessibility to primary users
- Visibility from streets & adjacent uses
- Quality of design & construction
- Elevated level of programming, maintenance, & security
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT OPEN SPACE FORUM - COMMUNITY MEETING #2

Work Session
Work Session

- 8 tables identified location & types of open space on a map
- Representatives shared top 3 priorities
- Given a chance to adjust based on other groups’ ideas
Work Session Results

- Activate parks
- Edges & gateways
- E/W pedestrian connection
- Central square
- N/S green spine
- Pocket parks
RECOMMENDATIONS
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6 Recommendations (in no particular order)

- Activate existing & planned parks
  CHIP NEVINS, SEATTLE PARKS & REC

- Pocket parks (part of new development)
  JOHN OWEN, MAKERS

- UW campus edge
  THERESA DOHERTY, UW REGIONAL & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- E/W pedestrian connections
  DAVE LACLERGUE, DEP’T OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- N/S green spine
  DAVE LACLERGUE, DEP’T OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

- Publicly-owned central square
  DOUG CAMPBELL / CORY CROCKER / STEVE WILKENS
ACTIVATE EXISTING & PLANNED PARKS

- Improvements & additional uses to all existing & planned parks.
Potential Design Elements

- Climbing wall
- Skateboard park
- P-Patch
- Basketball court
- Dog park
- Wall or screen for outdoor movie
Christie Park Enhancement
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University Heights Expansion
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Waterfront Park Expansion
Implementation

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Develop a culture of stewardship, programming, & activation
- Participate in development of planned parks

CITY ACTIONS

- Continue to invest & fund planned parks
POCKET PARKS

- Small spaces that activate streets in the U District.
- Open space within a 5-minute walk for residents north of NE 50th St.

NOTE: For illustrative purposes only. The locations shown do not necessarily reflect actual locations for pocket parks.
Potential Design Elements

- Café seating & picnic tables
- Small children’s playground
- WIFI
- Good lighting
- Quiet spaces
- Benches & seating
- Food trucks
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Privately-Owned Plaza

Pocket Parks
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Privately-Owned Plaza

Pocket Parks
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Privately-Owned Plaza

Pocket Parks
Residential Rooftop Amenity
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Implementation

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Review City’s draft design guidelines

CITY ACTIONS

- Establish requirements & design guidelines for private open space

Pocket Parks
Better integration with UW open spaces.

Celebrate entrances into the U District.
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15th Ave NE

BURKE MUSEUM PARKING
Currently the UW has a very subdued presence at this corner, a veil of woodland hides Ave NE, partially obscuring a wall that links the campus lawn beyond the sidewalk, providing level ground for a parking lot between NE 45th and NE 44th.

43rd STREET CONNECTION
This pedestrian entrance onto campus leads to the key intersection between Memorial Way and Stevens Way. The importance of this entrance will be transformed by the light rail transit line currently under construction.

PARRINGTON LAWN THRESHOLD
After the wooded edge along the Law School, Parrington opens up into a sunken lawn. Except for a shaded area toward the east, most of the landscape is elevated above street level and so the street side experience is dominated by a concrete wall.

41st STREET CONNECTION
The wide vehicular entry for the Central Parking Garage, along with the high wall that lines the sidewalk, obscures the sense of pedestrian welcome and entry, despite the fact that there is also an accessible ramp up to campus up to George Washington Place.

OLYMPIC VISTA THRESHOLD
The east side of 15th Ave NE is dominated by structures at this important junction. None of these structures have a street level entrance and there are no nearby crosswalks, which creates an uncomfortable sense of discord.

GRANT LANE ENTRANCE
Seemingly built as a vehicular entrance, the approach to the western gate of campus is steep, discouraging bike and pedestrian use. The large parking garage entrance and service road further detract from the sense of arrival onto campus.

ASOTIN PLACE CONNECTIONS
Along this stretch only service docks and steep staircases connect campus level with sidewalk level below.
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Proposed Burke Museum
Implementation

UW ACTION

▪ Continue to work with community to soften the campus edge as new UW projects are designed along 15th

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

▪ Continue to work with UW on campus edge design
More pedestrian options between NE 41st St & NE 45th St, including mid-block crossings.
Potential Design Elements

 Reduced vehicle parking
 Close to vehicle traffic (during events)
 Adjacent pocket parks
 Wider sidewalks
 Sidewalk cafes & businesses spilling out
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NE 43rd Street at Station

E/W Pedestrian Connections
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43rd St Parklet (within public right-of-way)

E/W Pedestrian Connections
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Block Size

U DISTRICT: 250’ x 500’ block size

PORTLAND: 200’ x 200’ block size

E/W Pedestrian Connections
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Activated Alleys

E/W Pedestrian Connections
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Retail Pass-Through
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Residential Pass-Through
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Interior Pass-Through
Implementation

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Support NE 43rd St improvements

CITY ACTIONS

- Finish NE 43rd St designs & work with partners to implement
- Establish design guidelines &/or regulations for mid-block pass-throughs
Vegetation, pedestrian, & cycle connection(s) from Cowen Park to the waterfront.
Design Criteria

- Additional street trees & other vegetation
- Connected with common theme/narrative
- Prioritized safety amenities for pedestrians & cyclists
- Wider sidewalks
- Encourage adjacent pocket parks
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Green Streets Concept Plans

N/S Green Spine
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Brooklyn Ave at Station

N/S Green Spine
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Neighborhood Greenway

12th Ave NE under construction

N/S Green Spine

Slow Speeds and Stop Signs
- Calm traffic entering and crossing the greenway
- Drivers better able to stop and prevent collisions

Safer Crossings at Busy Streets
- Easier for seniors and children to cross
- Make motorists aware of people walking and biking

Speed Humps
- Slow motorists and people riding bikes
- Reduce cut-through traffic

Placemaking
- Promote the activation of public space

Signs and Markings
- Direct people walking and biking to and along the greenway
- Help motorists know people walking and biking are present

Smooth Sidewalks and Pavement
- Safer for you and your family to walk and ride bikes
- Help people in wheelchairs or with strollers
Implementation

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Talk with neighbors to identify additional needs & problem areas
- Start programming & using residential streets (e.g., Get neighborhood support & apply to turn a block of 12th Ave NE into a “Play Street”)

CITY ACTIONS

- Finish Brooklyn Ave streetscape design & work with partners to implement
Large, publicly-owned gathering space for all types of people in the U District.
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Location Criteria

- Inclusiveness (central location)
- Active edges & surrounding uses
- 24-hour surveillance & security
- Identity (e.g., visible from the Ave)
- High pedestrian activity
- Close to transit (Light rail & bus)
- Accommodate events (or expandable with street closure)
- Solar access
NOTE: highlighted sites illustrate possible locations for a park---they don't represent specific recommendations or intentions of property owners. Further work is needed on economic & development incentives, as well as negotiations with property owners.
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Open Space Dimensions

Legend
- Open space
- Activated building edge
- Solid wall
- Adjacent street / alley with limited vehicle traffic
- Light Rail / Streetcar stop

JAMESON SQUARE (PDX) 50,000 SF

PIONEER COURT HOUSE SQUARE (PDX) 50,000 SF

BALLARD COMMONS 73,000 SF
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Hing Hay Park (International District)

Publicly-Owned Central Square
Above the Station

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Publicly-Owned
Central Square

18,000 SF

NE 43rd St

South entry

North entry
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Adjacent to the Station

- 8,800 SF
- 8,800 SF
- 27,600 SF

Publicly-Owned Central Square
Implementation

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

- Identify priority site(s)
- Alert Council to objectives, priorities, & needs. Strongly advocate
- Build a network & educate your neighbors (e.g., set up a booth at the farmers market)
- Think creatively & raise local funds
- Build an organization for local public realm stewardship
Implementation

CITY ACTIONS

▪ Raise priority with Parks District Board (2015)
▪ Contact property owner(s) to begin discussion about property acquisition (2015)
▪ Integrate goals of central square into City Comprehensive Plan (or Council adopted Parks Plan) (2015)
▪ Develop regulatory/fee/TDR programs to support open space development (2015)
▪ Include provisions for a central square in upzone legislation
Question #1

Which recommendations would you most like to see move forward in the next 5 years? Why?
Are there any City or community implementation actions you would not approve of?
Is there anything we have forgotten or you would like to bring up?
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Stay Involved

MINUTES & REPORTS @:
www.udistrictpartnership.org