



FIRST EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE OF THE NORTHEAST DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Record Number: 3035319-EG
Address: 10631 8th Ave NE
Applicant: Matthew Poncelow, Ankrom Moisan
Date of Meeting: Monday, February 03, 2020
Board Members Present: Brian Bishop (chair), Dan Rusler, Katy Haima, Tim Carter
Board Members Absent: James Marria
SDCI Staff Present: Carly Guillory, Senior Land Use Planner

SITE & VICINITY

Site Zone: Neighborhood Commercial with a 55-foot height limit (NC3-55 (M)) and NC3-75 (M)

Nearby Zones: (North) NC3-75(M), NC3-95(M), MR (M)
(South) Residential Small Lot (RSL(M)) and NC3-55(M)
(East) NC3-55(M) and Lowrise (LR3(M))
(West) NC3-95(M)

Lot Area: 96,379-square feet



Current Development:

The subject site is currently developed with a three-story structure and surface parking lot. The site slopes down approximately 30-feet from northwest to southeast.

Surrounding Development and Neighborhood Character:

Surrounding development includes mixed-use structures to the north and east, and residential development to the south. Notable sites and features in the vicinity include the Northgate Community Center, Northgate Branch of the Seattle Public Library, Hubbard Homestead Park, the future Northgate Link Light Rail station, and Thornton Creek.

Neighborhood character can be described as varied. Uses include residential. Generally, older developments are set back from the street with either surface parking or a landscape buffer, and include a mix of masonry, stucco, and lap siding materials. Newer structures generally have smaller setbacks and ample glazing at the street level. Contemporary designs with rectilinear massing, vertical bays, and pops of color mark new development while cementitious fiber cement and metal are recurring materials. Structures range from one to six stories in height. Mature trees and landscaping lend a natural transition to the Thornton Creek and the single-family areas to the south.

Access:

Vehicular and pedestrian access are both proposed from 8th Ave NE. Vehicular access is proposed at two driveway locations, one at the north property line, the other near the south property line.

Environmentally Critical Areas:

Peat settlement area, steep slope, riparian corridor, and wetland

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Design Review Early Design Guidance for a 5-story 400-unit apartment building. Parking for 240 vehicles proposed. Existing building to be demolished.

The design packet includes information presented at the meeting, and is available online by entering the record number at this website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/DPD/aboutus/news/events/DesignReview/SearchPastReviews/default.aspx>. Any recording of the Board meeting is available in the project file. This meeting report summarizes the meeting and is not a meeting transcript.

The packet is also available to view in the file, by contacting the Public Resource Center at SDCI:

Mailing Public Resource Center
Address: 700 Fifth Ave., Suite 2000
P.O. Box 34019
Seattle, WA 98124-4019

Email: PRC@seattle.gov

FIRST EARLY DESIGN GUIDANCE January 22, 2020

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were offered at this meeting:

- Supported the project.
- Encouraged a design that maximizes the availability of light and air.
- Encouraged a design that contributes to the existing north-south and east-west connections within this block.
- Suggested extending the existing north-south pedestrian connection through the site to provide access to the community center.
- Recommended a design that responds to the Northgate Urban Center Design Framework.
- Suggested a pedestrian connection along the north or south property line.
- Recommended a design that provides consistency along the 8th Ave NE and steps back from lower intensity zones.
- Supported the mass.
- Recommended adding to the design review packet adjacent development to the north (the Northgate Apartments Phase II project) for context.
- Supported Option B finding it most consistent with the Design Guidelines.
- Supported significant massing moves.
- Encouraged a design that responds to the existing context.

Comments received prior to the meeting include:

- Noted proximity to Thornton Creek and encouraged native plantings.
- Encouraged the project to participate in the Seattle Living Building Pilot program.
- Suggested extensive use of bioswales as well as a green roof.
- Appreciated attention to pedestrian circulation; however, felt it was unclear how pedestrians will access the Northgate Mall to the west and the light rail station to the southwest. Suggested a pedestrian connection to the west.
- Encouraged a design that considers bicyclists.
- Supported Option B for its useful and private interior courtyard.

Non-design related comments concerning this development were also received and concerned Thornton Creek, stormwater management, transportation impacts, and geotechnical reports.

The Seattle Department of Transportation offered the following comments:

- Recommended project alternatives that minimize the number of curb cuts.
- Recommended the project provide space for on-site solid waste collection.

One purpose of the design review process is for the Board and City to receive comments from the public that help to identify feedback and concerns about the site and design concept, identify applicable Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines of highest priority to the site and explore conceptual design, siting alternatives and eventual architectural design. Concerns with off-street parking, traffic and construction impacts are reviewed as part of the environmental review conducted by SDCI and are not part of this review. Concerns with building height calculations and bicycle storage standards are addressed under the City's zoning code and are not part of this review.

All public comments submitted in writing for this project can be viewed using the following link and entering the record number-EG: <http://web6.seattle.gov/dpd/edms/>

PRIORITIES & BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

After visiting the site, considering the analysis of the site and context provided by the proponents, and hearing public comment, the Design Review Board members provided the following siting and design guidance.

1. Massing & Context.

- a. The Board discussed that the objective of Design Guideline CS2 Urban Pattern and Form is to design the form of the building responding to the immediate surrounding context, both existing and as envisioned through neighborhood planning documents and concepts supported by the community. This principle was highlighted in public comment, and the Board agreed that responding to the surrounding context, as this guideline suggests, is a high priority. (CS2)
- b. The Board noted that there are many existing massing and open space patterns in the surrounding area from which the project should draw inspiration, and that it was unclear how the options presented were responding to these patterns. (CS1-B *Sunlight and Natural Ventilation*, CS1-C *Topography*, CS2-B *Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces*, CS2-D *Height, Bulk, and Scale*, CS3-I *Streetscape Compatibility*, PL1-A *Network of Open Spaces*, PL1-B *Walkways and Connections*, PL1-I *Incorporate Open Space*, PL1-II *Interior Block Pedestrian Connections*, PL2-I *Respond to Site Characteristics*, PL3-II *Human Activity*, DC1-B *Vehicular Access and Circulation*, DC1-III *Parking Structures*, DC1-IV *Parking and Vehicle Access*, DC1-III *Parking Structures*, DC1-IV *Parking and Vehicle Access*)
- c. The Board requested additional study of this context and how it has informed the massing and site plan be presented at the next EDG meeting. This study should explore patterns by block, including an area greater than the site's block, and illustrate how these patterns are informing the proposed massing and courtyard.
- d. The Board agreed massing Option A provided the most successful response to context, specifically supporting the upper level setback at the street and break in massing that allows for greater light and air to the courtyard abutting to the north. The Board agreed, however, that additional context study was necessary. The Board requested exploration of patterns, as described above, and exploration of the following:
 - i. increased ground level setback at the street,

- ii. residential stoops at the street,
- iii. more open space at the southeast corner along the street, and
- iv. one garage entrance at the north. (CS1-B *Sunlight and Natural Ventilation*, CS1-C *Topography*, CS2-B *Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces*, CS2-D *Height, Bulk, and Scale*, CS3-I *Streetscape Compatibility*, PL1-A *Network of Open Spaces*, PL1-B *Walkways and Connections*, PL1-I *Incorporate Open Space*, PL1-II *Interior Block Pedestrian Connections*, PL2-I *Respond to Site Characteristics*, PL3-II *Human Activity*, DC1-B *Vehicular Access and Circulation*, DC1-III *Parking Structures*, DC1-IV *Parking and Vehicle Access*, DC1-III *Parking Structures*, DC1-IV *Parking and Vehicle Access*)

2. Pedestrian Connections.

- a. Connectivity was identified as a high priority by both the public and the Board, specifically, creating interior block pedestrian connections through sites is a critical element of an improved pedestrian environment. The Board agreed that how one might navigate from the site to notable sites in the neighborhood, such as the library and community center, Thornton Creek, the mall, and future light rail station, was unclear and needed further analysis. (PL1-A *Network of Open Spaces*, PL1-B *Walkways and Connections*, PL1-I *Incorporate Open Space*, PL1-II *Interior Block Pedestrian Connections*)
- b. The Board requested further development of on-site pedestrian connections supporting existing and proposed patterns in the neighborhood, specifically, an east-west pedestrian connection along the south and secondary entries should be explored. (PL1-A *Network of Open Spaces*, PL1-B *Walkways and Connections*, PL1-I *Incorporate Open Space*, PL1-II *Interior Block Pedestrian Connections*)

3. Architectural Concept & Open Space.

- a. The Board agreed that clarify of form and a clear architectural language were important and the architectural concept should result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings. (DC2-B *Architectural and Façade Composition*, DC2-C *Secondary Architectural Features*, DC2-D *Scale and Texture*, DC2-E *Form and Function*, DC2-I *Foster Human Scale*, DC3-A *Building-Open Space Relationship*)
- b. The Board requested further study of the context and presentation of how this architectural context might inform the project design. (DC2-B *Architectural and Façade Composition*, DC2-C *Secondary Architectural Features*, DC2-D *Scale and Texture*, DC2-E *Form and Function*, DC2-I *Foster Human Scale*, DC3-A *Building-Open Space Relationship*)
- c. The proposed open space included a setback at the street and two courtyards. The Board recommended a landscape concept that is integrated with the architectural concept so each complements the other. (DC2-B *Architectural and Façade Composition*, DC2-C *Secondary Architectural Features*, DC2-D *Scale and Texture*, DC2-E *Form and Function*, DC2-I *Foster Human Scale*, DC3-A *Building-Open Space Relationship*)

DEVELOPMENT STANDARD DEPARTURES

The Board's recommendation on the requested departure(s) will be based on the departure's potential to help the project better meet these design guidelines priorities and achieve a better

overall project design than could be achieved without the departure(s). The Board's recommendation will be reserved until the final Board meeting.

At the time of the **FIRST** Early Design Guidance meeting no departure were requested.

DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES

The Seattle Design Guidelines and Neighborhood Design Guidelines recognized by the Board as Priority Guidelines are identified above. All guidelines remain applicable and are summarized below. For the full text please visit the [Design Review website](#).

CONTEXT & SITE

CS1 Natural Systems and Site Features: Use natural systems/features of the site and its surroundings as a starting point for project design.

CS1-A Energy Use

CS1-A-1. Energy Choices: At the earliest phase of project development, examine how energy choices may influence building form, siting, and orientation, and factor in the findings when making siting and design decisions.

CS1-B Sunlight and Natural Ventilation

CS1-B-1. Sun and Wind: Take advantage of solar exposure and natural ventilation. Use local wind patterns and solar gain to reduce the need for mechanical ventilation and heating where possible.

CS1-B-2. Daylight and Shading: Maximize daylight for interior and exterior spaces and minimize shading on adjacent sites through the placement and/or design of structures on site.

CS1-B-3. Managing Solar Gain: Manage direct sunlight falling on south and west facing facades through shading devices and existing or newly planted trees.

CS1-C Topography

CS1-C-1. Land Form: Use natural topography and desirable landforms to inform project design.

CS1-C-2. Elevation Changes: Use the existing site topography when locating structures and open spaces on the site.

CS1-D Plants and Habitat

CS1-D-1. On-Site Features: Incorporate on-site natural habitats and landscape elements into project design and connect those features to existing networks of open spaces and natural habitats wherever possible. Consider relocating significant trees and vegetation if retention is not feasible.

CS1-D-2. Off-Site Features: Provide opportunities through design to connect to off-site habitats such as riparian corridors or existing urban forest corridors. Promote continuous habitat, where possible, and increase interconnected corridors of urban forest and habitat where possible.

CS1-E Water

CS1-E-1. Natural Water Features: If the site includes any natural water features, consider ways to incorporate them into project design, where feasible

CS1-E-2. Adding Interest with Project Drainage: Use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

DC1-I Retain Existing Natural Systems and Site Features as Landscaping

DC1-I-i. Natural Features: Consider design strategies to preserve existing on-site natural habitats, significant vegetation or other natural features including drainage features that can be incorporated into the site design. For example, consider retaining natural features such as existing vegetation and wetlands that are aesthetically pleasing, would emphasize natural features like that of Thornton Creek and its tributaries and can create a pedestrian friendly environment by providing natural areas of interest. Also, features such as larger planting strips located adjacent to sidewalks can be used for landscaping to enhance the site and can effectively separate pedestrians from the impacts of traffic.

CS2 Urban Pattern and Form: Strengthen the most desirable forms, characteristics, and patterns of the streets, block faces, and open spaces in the surrounding area.

CS2-A Location in the City and Neighborhood

CS2-A-1. Sense of Place: Emphasize attributes that give a distinctive sense of place. Design the building and open spaces to enhance areas where a strong identity already exists, and create a sense of place where the physical context is less established.

CS2-A-2. Architectural Presence: Evaluate the degree of visibility or architectural presence that is appropriate or desired given the context, and design accordingly.

CS2-B Adjacent Sites, Streets, and Open Spaces

CS2-B-1. Site Characteristics: Allow characteristics of sites to inform the design, especially where the street grid and topography create unusually shaped lots that can add distinction to the building massing.

CS2-B-2. Connection to the Street: Identify opportunities for the project to make a strong connection to the street and public realm.

CS2-B-3. Character of Open Space: Contribute to the character and proportion of surrounding open spaces.

CS2-C Relationship to the Block

CS2-C-1. Corner Sites: Corner sites can serve as gateways or focal points; both require careful detailing at the first three floors due to their high visibility from two or more streets and long distances.

CS2-C-2. Mid-Block Sites: Look to the uses and scales of adjacent buildings for clues about how to design a mid-block building. Continue a strong street-edge and respond to datum lines of adjacent buildings at the first three floors.

CS2-C-3. Full Block Sites: Break up long facades of full-block buildings to avoid a monolithic presence. Provide detail and human scale at street-level, and include repeating elements to add variety and rhythm to the façade and overall building design.

CS2-D Height, Bulk, and Scale

CS2-D-1. Existing Development and Zoning: Review the height, bulk, and scale of neighboring buildings as well as the scale of development anticipated by zoning for the area to determine an appropriate complement and/or transition.

CS2-D-2. Existing Site Features: Use changes in topography, site shape, and vegetation or structures to help make a successful fit with adjacent properties.

CS2-D-3. Zone Transitions: For projects located at the edge of different zones, provide an appropriate transition or complement to the adjacent zone(s). Projects should create a step in perceived height, bulk and scale between the anticipated development potential of the adjacent zone and the proposed development.

CS2-D-4. Massing Choices: Strive for a successful transition between zones where a project abuts a less intense zone.

CS2-D-5. Respect for Adjacent Sites: Respect adjacent properties with design and site planning to minimize disrupting the privacy of residents in adjacent buildings.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

CS2-I Responding to Site Characteristics

CS2-I-i. Corner Lot Treatments: New buildings should reinforce street corners and enhance the street level environment at these key pedestrian areas. Street corners are common areas for informal interaction, and the building's relationship to the street and related elements should promote comfort and interest within the public realm. Provide a building entry and additional building mass at the corner; and provide space for movement and activity.

CS2-II Corner Lots as Gateways

CS2-II-i. Gateways: New developments on corner lots can aid significantly in marking entry and defining an intersection by "announcing the block" through building forms and features that are visually stimulating and inviting. Consult map for locations.

CS2-III Height, Bulk and Scale Compatibility

CS2-III-i. Lowrise 3, Midrise, or Highrise abutting a Single-family or Lowrise 1 or 2 zone:

- a. Multifamily developments should maintain the established front setback pattern of the subject block.
- b. Orient the massing of the structure away from less intensive zones to the greatest extent possible.

CS2-III-ii. NC2-40', NC3-40', and higher abutting Single-family, Lowrise 1 or 2:

- a. Step back the ground-level commercial space to match the established front setback pattern on the subject block.
- b. Orient the massing away from the lot line of an abutting less intensive zone to the greatest extent possible.
- c. Soften the commercial facade on the abutting lot line with elements such as dense landscaping.
- d. Repeat residential architectural elements of surrounding buildings on portions of the commercial facade adjacent to such buildings.

CS2-III-iii. Alleys: Along a zone edge without an alley, consider additional setbacks, softening elements, and architectural compatibility to help reduce the potential 'looming effect' of a much larger structure in proximity to smaller existing buildings.

CS3 Architectural Context and Character: Contribute to the architectural character of the neighborhood.

CS3-A Emphasizing Positive Neighborhood Attributes

CS3-A-1. Fitting Old and New Together: Create compatibility between new projects, and existing architectural context, including historic and modern designs, through building articulation, scale and proportion, roof forms, detailing, fenestration, and/or the use of complementary materials.

CS3-A-2. Contemporary Design: Explore how contemporary designs can contribute to the development of attractive new forms and architectural styles; as expressed through use of new materials or other means.

CS3-A-3. Established Neighborhoods: In existing neighborhoods with a well-defined architectural character, site and design new structures to complement or be compatible with the architectural style and siting patterns of neighborhood buildings.

CS3-A-4. Evolving Neighborhoods: In neighborhoods where architectural character is evolving or otherwise in transition, explore ways for new development to establish a positive and desirable context for others to build upon in the future.

CS3-B Local History and Culture

CS3-B-1. Placemaking: Explore the history of the site and neighborhood as a potential placemaking opportunity. Look for historical and cultural significance, using neighborhood groups and archives as resources.

CS3-B-2. Historical/Cultural References: Reuse existing structures on the site where feasible as a means of incorporating historical or cultural elements into the new project.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

CS3-I Streetscape Compatibility

CS3-I-i. Response to Context: The architecture of individual buildings should relate to their surroundings. This does not necessarily mean a historical approach, but rather one that is sensitive to the surrounding urban, built and natural environments. In areas zoned for mixed-use development outside the retail core area, orient and design the commercial facade at street level to be compatible with the streetscape of the surrounding residential neighborhood. Compatibility can be accomplished through a combination of the following:

1. The overall proportion of the facade;
2. Building setbacks;
3. Placement of windows and bays;
4. Location of entries; and
5. Exterior materials.

PUBLIC LIFE

PL1 Connectivity: Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.

PL1-A Network of Open Spaces

PL1-A-1. Enhancing Open Space: Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood.

PL1-A-2. Adding to Public Life: Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and quality of project-related open space available for public life.

PL1-B Walkways and Connections

PL1-B-1. Pedestrian Infrastructure: Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.

PL1-B-2. Pedestrian Volumes: Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.

PL1-B-3. Pedestrian Amenities: Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered.

PL1-C Outdoor Uses and Activities

PL1-C-1. Selecting Activity Areas: Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.

PL1-C-2. Informal Community Uses: In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer’s markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.

PL1-C-3. Year-Round Activity: Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

PL1-I Incorporate Open Space

PL1-I-i. Open Space: The Northgate Plan places a high priority on open space, especially public spaces that are accessible, comfortable, and in proximity to or on routes to high activity areas. Open spaces (including parking areas) can also help improve site and project sustainability.

PL1-II Interior Block Pedestrian Connections

PL1-II-i. Consider Interior Block Connections:

1. Optimize neighborhood connectivity
2. Promote a variety of pedestrian uses such as walking, exercise and relaxing
3. Minimize pavement, and provide an equitable balance between pavement and planting areas
4. Use pervious/pedestrian scaled paving for walking surfaces
5. Accommodate vehicular access only for emergency vehicles;
6. Develop integrated rainwater strategies such as rain gardens, natural drainage collection, building water collection and art;
7. Provide “garden entries” for townhomes at the base of larger residential buildings;
8. Incorporate built-in and movable seating to optimize flexibility of use.

PL2 Walkability: Create a safe and comfortable walking environment that is easy to navigate and well-connected to existing pedestrian walkways and features.

PL2-A Accessibility

PL2-A-1. Access for All: Provide access for people of all abilities in a manner that is fully integrated into the project design. Design entries and other primary access points such that all visitors can be greeted and welcomed through the front door.

PL2-A-2. Access Challenges: Add features to assist pedestrians in navigating sloped sites, long blocks, or other challenges.

PL2-B Safety and Security

PL2-B-1. Eyes on the Street: Create a safe environment by providing lines of sight and encouraging natural surveillance.

PL2-B-2. Lighting for Safety: Provide lighting at sufficient lumen intensities and scales, including pathway illumination, pedestrian and entry lighting, and/or security lights.

PL2-B-3. Street-Level Transparency: Ensure transparency of street-level uses (for uses such as nonresidential uses or residential lobbies), where appropriate, by keeping views open into spaces behind walls or plantings, at corners, or along narrow passageways.

PL2-C Weather Protection

PL2-C-1. Locations and Coverage: Overhead weather protection is encouraged and should be located at or near uses that generate pedestrian activity such as entries, retail uses, and transit stops.

PL2-C-2. Design Integration: Integrate weather protection, gutters and downspouts into the design of the structure as a whole, and ensure that it also relates well to neighboring buildings in design, coverage, or other features.

PL2-C-3. People-Friendly Spaces: Create an artful and people-friendly space beneath building.

PL2-D Wayfinding

PL2-D-1. Design as Wayfinding: Use design features as a means of wayfinding wherever possible.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

PL2-I Respond to Site Characteristics

PL2-I-i. Grade Change: Try to match the grade of abutting public rights-of-way where properties meet. If there is a significant grade difference, create an attractive transition, using creative grading and landscaping. Be sure to incorporate pedestrian access.

PL2-II Streetscape Compatibility

PL2-II-i. Walkable Network: Create an interconnected system of streets and open spaces to optimize neighborhood permeability consistent with a typical urban block pattern;

PL2-II-ii. Multi-Modal Use: Encourage and enhance transit/multi-modal use;

PL2-II-iii. Control Speed/Volume: Emphasize pedestrian and bicycle safety, in part by controlling vehicle traffic speeds and managing volumes;

PL2-II-iv. Crossings: Support increased use of designated crossings; and

PL2-II-v. Green Space: Increase urban green space/open space within the public realm by achieving surface treatments that are “more green and less gray.”

PL2-III Superblock Development

PL2-III-i. Siting: Build up to the edge of the sidewalk and meet the other pedestrian street designation standards.

PL2-III-ii. Ped-friendly Environment: Where superblock developments are not along designated Major Pedestrian Streets, they should achieve a pedestrian-friendly environment within the internal layout of a superblock site, where commercial buildings may be separated from the public right-of-way by parking.

PL2-III-iii. Pedestrian Connections: Every attempt should be made to link large sites to the greater community by creating lively, interesting pedestrian connections within the site, and also between the site and its surroundings.

PL2-III-iv. Passageways: Key internal at-grade passageways accommodating pedestrian and vehicular circulation on large sites should not be ignored as locations for pleasant pedestrian places.

PL2-III-v. Internal Drives/Walkways: Developments should have internal drives and walkways adjacent to buildings designed with the basic elements of a good pedestrian-oriented shopping street: buildings oriented close to walkways, landscaping, pedestrian-scale lighting, walkways of sufficient width to encourage social interactions without impeding pedestrian movement, and other similar enhancements.

PL2-III-vi. Usable Spaces: Usable pedestrian spaces, such as a plaza or extra-wide sidewalk near entrances to buildings with pedestrian enhancements, are encouraged either at the street or within the site adjacent to a private drive.

PL2-III-vii. Parking Lots: - Surface parking areas located between primary buildings and the public right-of-way should include walkways, landscaping and lighting to delineate safe and comfortable pedestrian circulation within the site.

PL3 Street-Level Interaction: Encourage human interaction and activity at the street-level with clear connections to building entries and edges.

PL3-A Entries

PL3-A-1. Design Objectives: Design primary entries to be obvious, identifiable, and distinctive with clear lines of sight and lobbies visually connected to the street.

PL3-A-2. Common Entries: Multi-story residential buildings need to provide privacy and security for residents but also be welcoming and identifiable to visitors.

PL3-A-3. Individual Entries: Ground-related housing should be scaled and detailed appropriately to provide for a more intimate type of entry.

PL3-A-4. Ensemble of Elements: Design the entry as a collection of coordinated elements including the door(s), overhead features, ground surface, landscaping, lighting, and other features.

PL3-B Residential Edges

PL3-B-1. Security and Privacy: Provide security and privacy for residential buildings through the use of a buffer or semi-private space between the development and the street or neighboring buildings.

PL3-B-2. Ground-level Residential: Privacy and security issues are particularly important in buildings with ground-level housing, both at entries and where windows are located overlooking the street.

PL3-B-3. Buildings with Live/Work Uses: Maintain active and transparent facades in the design of live/work residences. Design the first floor so it can be adapted to other commercial use as needed in the future.

PL3-B-4. Interaction: Provide opportunities for interaction among residents and neighbors.

PL3-C Retail Edges

PL3-C-1. Porous Edge: Engage passersby with opportunities to interact visually with the building interior using glazing and transparency. Create multiple entries where possible and make a physical and visual connection between people on the sidewalk and retail activities in the building.

PL3-C-2. Visibility: Maximize visibility into the building interior and merchandise displays. Consider fully operational glazed wall-sized doors that can be completely opened to the street, increased height in lobbies, and/or special lighting for displays.

PL3-C-3. Ancillary Activities: Allow space for activities such as sidewalk vending, seating, and restaurant dining to occur. Consider setting structures back from the street or incorporating space in the project design into which retail uses can extend.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

PL3-I Promote Pedestrian Interaction

PL3-I-i. Pathways: Provide direct and convenient pathways, comfort, visual interest and activity for pedestrians

PL3-II Human Activity

PL3-II-i. Indoor/Outdoor Transition: Consider setting portions of the building back to create spaces at street level for pedestrian-oriented activities. Take the “indoors” outdoors by spilling interior space (e.g. dining areas, merchandise displays) onto plazas and walkways and bring the “outdoors” into the building by opening interior spaces to sunlight and views of sidewalk activity.

PL3-II-ii. Sidewalk Widths: Sidewalk widths throughout the Northgate area are less than ideal, and wider sidewalks will allow for more pedestrian circulation and activity. Within active retail areas, proposed developments are encouraged to set back from the street fronting property line to provide additional space abutting the sidewalk. The Major Pedestrian Street designation calls for 12-foot sidewalks. However, 16-foot sidewalks are preferred in commercial areas, where appropriate.

PL3-III Street Level Transparency

PL3-III-i. Visual Connections: Provide direct visual connection into street level facades. The following are examples of less desirable design treatments that should be discouraged:

1. windowless walls;
2. mirrored or non-transparent glass;
3. glass block;
4. display cases;
5. narrow windows not meeting the intent above;
6. windows located above waist level to persons outside the building on the sidewalk;

7. windows into areas that are too small, shallow, or narrow to support normal human activity (e.g. the back of a tall display case, a narrow hallway)
8. any interior wall, equipment, or functional layout that hampers the intent of transparency stated above.

PL3-IV Lots Adjoining Public Open Spaces

PL3-IV-i. Space Transition: Strive for transitions between public, semi-public, semi private and private space in the design of new development abutting public open space. The following can help accomplish this goal:

- a. Where appropriate, site commercial uses facing the public space with outdoor seating to enliven the space.
- b. For ground floor residential uses, locate residential stoops with a grade separation to provide a transition between the residences and the public space.

PL3-IV-ii. Discouraged Elements: The following are examples of less desirable design treatments that should be discouraged:

- a. windowless walls;
- b. fences and/or tall, dense plantings that create areas that are invisible to passers-by.

PL3-IV-iii. Upper-Level Visibility: Consider upper story balconies, terraces and windows to provide visual interest and eyes and ears on the public open spaces for greater public safety.

PL3-V Commercial and Mixed-Use Buildings

PL3-V-i. Inviting Ground Floors: The ground floors of buildings should appear inviting to the public by containing commercial uses and open spaces with direct entry from the sidewalk. Vary these features in size, width and depth to accommodate a variety of appropriate uses and activities for the site and vicinity. This includes providing multiple entries at the street.

PL3-V-ii. Open-air Passageways: For corridors between commercial spaces, open-air passageways are generally more visible and more inviting than interior hallways. This can be an attractive, successful location for store entries, store windows and restaurant/ cafe seating.

PL3-V-iii. Facade Articulation: Further articulate the street level facade to provide a comfortable pedestrian experience with placement of street trees, exterior lighting on buildings, planters and overhead weather protection.

PL4 Active Transportation: Incorporate design features that facilitate active forms of transportation such as walking, bicycling, and use of transit.

PL4-A Entry Locations and Relationships

PL4-A-1. Serving all Modes of Travel: Provide safe and convenient access points for all modes of travel.

PL4-A-2. Connections to All Modes: Site the primary entry in a location that logically relates to building uses and clearly connects all major points of access.

PL4-B Planning Ahead for Bicyclists

PL4-B-1. Early Planning: Consider existing and future bicycle traffic to and through the site early in the process so that access and connections are integrated into the project along with other modes of travel.

PL4-B-2. Bike Facilities: Facilities such as bike racks and storage, bike share stations, shower facilities and lockers for bicyclists should be located to maximize convenience, security, and safety.

PL4-B-3. Bike Connections: Facilitate connections to bicycle trails and infrastructure around and beyond the project.

PL4-C Planning Ahead For Transit

PL4-C-1. Influence on Project Design: Identify how a transit stop (planned or built) adjacent to or near the site may influence project design, provide opportunities for placemaking.

PL4-C-2. On-site Transit Stops: If a transit stop is located onsite, design project-related pedestrian improvements and amenities so that they complement any amenities provided for transit riders.

PL4-C-3. Transit Connections: Where no transit stops are on or adjacent to the site, identify where the nearest transit stops and pedestrian routes are and include design features and connections within the project design as appropriate.

DESIGN CONCEPT

DC1 Project Uses and Activities: Optimize the arrangement of uses and activities on site.

DC1-A Arrangement of Interior Uses

DC1-A-1. Visibility: Locate uses and services frequently used by the public in visible or prominent areas, such as at entries or along the street front.

DC1-A-2. Gathering Places: Maximize the use of any interior or exterior gathering spaces.

DC1-A-3. Flexibility: Build in flexibility so the building can adapt over time to evolving needs, such as the ability to change residential space to commercial space as needed.

DC1-A-4. Views and Connections: Locate interior uses and activities to take advantage of views and physical connections to exterior spaces and uses.

DC1-B Vehicular Access and Circulation

DC1-B-1. Access Location and Design: Choose locations for vehicular access, service uses, and delivery areas that minimize conflict between vehicles and non-motorists wherever possible. Emphasize use of the sidewalk for pedestrians, and create safe and attractive conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

DC1-B-2. Facilities for Alternative Transportation: Locate facilities for alternative transportation in prominent locations that are convenient and readily accessible to expected users.

DC1-C Parking and Service Uses

DC1-C-1. Below-Grade Parking: Locate parking below grade wherever possible. Where a surface parking lot is the only alternative, locate the parking in rear or side yards, or on lower or less visible portions of the site.

DC1-C-2. Visual Impacts: Reduce the visual impacts of parking lots, parking structures, entrances, and related signs and equipment as much as possible.

DC1-C-3. Multiple Uses: Design parking areas to serve multiple uses such as children’s play space, outdoor gathering areas, sports courts, woonerf, or common space in multifamily projects.

DC1-C-4. Service Uses: Locate and design service entries, loading docks, and trash receptacles away from pedestrian areas or to a less visible portion of the site to reduce possible impacts of these facilities on building aesthetics and pedestrian circulation.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

DC1-I Design of Parking Lots Near Sidewalks

DC1-I-i. Landscaping: Interior landscaping, in addition to perimeter landscaping, should be installed to help soften the visual impact of surface parking and enhance natural site drainage. To meet this objective, consider the following:

1. Interior landscaping: Use landscaping to break large areas into a series of smaller areas. Plant low landscaping in left over portions of parking areas.
2. Site landscaping strategically to minimize stormwater run-off;
3. Innovative drainage control measures such as swales or treatment islands or pervious pavements;
4. Plant enough trees, which at maturity form a canopy over large portions of the parking area with trees interspersed between parking spaces;
5. Select tree species that do not obscure signage, amenity features, or opportunities for surveillance;
6. Plant a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees for year-round greenery. Select types of trees, such as sapless trees, that do not impact parked cars.

DC1-II Large Scale, “Super Block” Development

DC1-II-i. Parking Area: The parking area should be laid out as an urban block, at a scale that promotes walking within.

DC1-II-ii. Pedestrian Grid: A network of clearly defined pedestrian walkways should serve as a “grid,” connecting these walkways to uses within the site and to the larger street network in a safe and comfortable manner. The necessary elements—lighting, pavement and plantings— should be placed to support those pedestrian objectives.

DC1-II-iii. Spatial Definition: The space should be defined by buildings, and secondary structures such as shelters and small retail spaces should further define the scale.

DC1-III Parking Structures

DC1-III-i. Siting: Site parking structures away from Major Pedestrian Streets.

DC1-III-ii. Design Quality: Design a well-proportioned and unified parking structure. Consider techniques specified in citywide design guidelines – those relating to height, bulk and scale compatibility; architectural concept and consistency; and fostering a human scale to achieve good scale and architectural design quality.

DC1-III-iii. Ground-Level Retail: Consider placing retail at the ground level of a parking structure along the primary facade, where appropriate.

DC1-III-iv. Quality Materials: Parking structure facades should be treated with high quality materials and given vertical articulation and emphasis similar to the principal structure. The façade should be designed to visually screen cars.

DC1-III-v. Pedestrian Entries: Pedestrian entries should be clearly visible and architecturally expressed on the exterior of the building.

DC1-IV Parking and Vehicle Access

DC1-IV-i. Minimize Pedestrian/Vehicle Conflicts: Site and design driveways to minimize conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians. This is especially important along Northgate Way, 1st Avenue NE, 5th Avenue NE, Roosevelt Way NE, 15th Avenue NE, NE 100th Street, NE 103rd Street, and NE 125th Street. Minimize the number of curb cuts and width of driveways and curb cuts along these streets.

DC1-IV-ii. Locate Parking to the Rear: Where feasible, parking areas should be located to the rear of buildings that face NE Northgate Way, 1st Avenue NE, 5th Avenue NE, Roosevelt Way NE, 15th Avenue NE, NE 100th Street and NE 103rd Street. Where surface parking must be located to the side of structures, the following is recommended:

- a. Place surface parking away from the corners of blocks fronting on NE Northgate Way, 5th Avenue NE, 8th Avenue NE, Roosevelt Way NE, 15th Avenue NE, NE 100th Street, NE 103rd Street and NE 125th Street.
- b. Limit the frontage of surface parking areas that face NE Northgate Way and 5th Avenue NE (outside the Major Pedestrian Street designations).

DC1-IV-iii. Encourage the Creation of Multi-Purpose Parking Areas: These areas can provide parking as well as public open space, such as places for special neighborhood functions (markets, gatherings), cultural events (outdoor theater, music), and recreational activities. Examples of elements for public open spaces include: special surface treatments, art, fountains and seating, locations for removable bollards or other elements to restrict automobile access to public spaces when not used for parking. Use lighting to create a safe environment while minimizing glare onto adjacent properties and sidewalks.

DC1-V Bicycle Parking

DC1-V-i. Bicycle Amenities: When providing bicycle parking, consider incorporating features such as storage and wayfinding for bicycle users into the site plan/building design.

DC2 Architectural Concept: Develop an architectural concept that will result in a unified and functional design that fits well on the site and within its surroundings.

DC2-A Massing

DC2-A-1. Site Characteristics and Uses: Arrange the mass of the building taking into consideration the characteristics of the site and the proposed uses of the building and its open space.

DC2-A-2. Reducing Perceived Mass: Use secondary architectural elements to reduce the perceived mass of larger projects.

DC2-B Architectural and Facade Composition

DC2-B-1. Façade Composition: Design all building facades—including alleys and visible roofs— considering the composition and architectural expression of the building as a whole. Ensure that all facades are attractive and well-proportioned.

DC2-B-2. Blank Walls: Avoid large blank walls along visible façades wherever possible. Where expanses of blank walls, retaining walls, or garage facades are unavoidable, include uses or design treatments at the street level that have human scale and are designed for pedestrians.

DC2-C Secondary Architectural Features

DC2-C-1. Visual Depth and Interest: Add depth to facades where appropriate by incorporating balconies, canopies, awnings, decks, or other secondary elements into the façade design. Add detailing at the street level in order to create interest for the pedestrian and encourage active street life and window shopping (in retail areas).

DC2-C-2. Dual Purpose Elements: Consider architectural features that can be dual purpose— adding depth, texture, and scale as well as serving other project functions.

DC2-C-3. Fit With Neighboring Buildings: Use design elements to achieve a successful fit between a building and its neighbors.

DC2-D Scale and Texture

DC2-D-1. Human Scale: Incorporate architectural features, elements, and details that are of human scale into the building facades, entries, retaining walls, courtyards, and exterior spaces in a manner that is consistent with the overall architectural concept

DC2-D-2. Texture: Design the character of the building, as expressed in the form, scale, and materials, to strive for a fine-grained scale, or “texture,” particularly at the street level and other areas where pedestrians predominate.

DC2-E Form and Function

DC2-E-1. Legibility and Flexibility: Strive for a balance between building use legibility and flexibility. Design buildings such that their primary functions and uses can be readily determined from the exterior, making the building easy to access and understand. At the same time, design flexibility into the building so that it may remain useful over time even as specific programmatic needs evolve.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

DC2-I Foster Human Scale (Architectural Materials and Elements)

DC2-I-i. Commercial and Mixed-Use Buildings: The ground level of the building must offer pedestrian interest along sidewalks. This includes windows, entrances, and architectural details. Signs, overhead weather protection and ornamentation are encouraged.

DC2-I-ii. All New Developments: Exterior building materials should have a human scale; this helps people relate to the size of the building. Good examples include stone and brick. Non-modular exterior materials, such as stucco, and those in large modules, such as concrete panels, will need finer details to reduce the perceived bulk and create human scale.

DC2-II Upper Stories

DC2-II-i. Recessing: Recessing the upper stories of developments on arterials allows sunlight to pass onto the street and minimizes the impact of height on pedestrians.

DC3 Open Space Concept: Integrate open space design with the building design so that they complement each other.

DC3-A Building-Open Space Relationship

DC3-A-1. Interior/Exterior Fit: Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.

DC3-B Open Space Uses and Activities

DC3-B-1. Meeting User Needs: Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.

DC3-B-2. Matching Uses to Conditions: Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities.

DC3-B-3. Connections to Other Open Space: Site and design project-related open spaces to connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate.

DC3-B-4. Multifamily Open Space: Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction.

DC3-C Design

DC3-C-1. Reinforce Existing Open Space: Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept that other projects can build upon in the future.

DC3-C-2. Amenities/Features: Create attractive outdoor spaces suited to the uses envisioned for the project.

DC3-C-3. Support Natural Areas: Create an open space design that retains and enhances onsite natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

DC3-I Urban Gardens

DC3-I-i. Seating: New public spaces should provide as many seating opportunities as possible;

DC3-I-ii. Sittable Planters: Planter walls should be set at a height that allows for use as seating.

DC3-I-iii. Movable Seating: Moveable chairs and tables are strongly encouraged.

DC3-I-iv. Courtyards: Elements such as planters, benches and steps can be sited to break down the scale of an open space, and provide comfortable seating and opportunities for viewing. Courtyards should be integrated with the scale, character and function of the adjoining building.

DC3-II Urban Plazas and Town Squares

DC3-II-i. Public Space: Space should be enclosed by active buildings around the perimeter to encourage its use and maintain its safety. Plazas and squares should be surrounded by pockets of activity: shops, stands, benches, displays, gardens. These various pockets of activity should all be next to paths and entrances to facilitate constant movement. The ultimate goal should be to gather enough people in and around these spaces so that they will overlap and spill in toward the center of the square. The following can help accomplish this goal:

1. Arrange open space elements in a manner that reduces the scale of the larger plaza into smaller spaces more suitable for pedestrian use.
2. Design retail spaces to comfortably “spill out” and enliven public space.
3. Provide landscaping that enhances the space and architecture.
4. Provide visual and pedestrian access (including barrier free access) into the site from the public sidewalk.
5. Site furniture, art work.
6. Consider pedestrian-scaled lighting and other amenities such as fountains, seating (steps provide excellent seating) and kiosks.
7. Design landscaping to assist in absorbing run-off from paved plaza areas.

DC3-III Landscaping to Reinforce Design Continuity with Adjacent Sites

DC3-III-i. Landscaping to Enhance the Building and/or Site: Quality landscaping is an essential component of the built urban form. Good use of existing and new landscaping adds considerable value to the design of new development and blends new development with surrounding areas, and reduces stormwater runoff.

- a. The corners of street intersections should be distinguished by special landscape treatments: special paving, low planters and flower displays, sculpture, and decorative lighting.
- b. Mark and define pedestrian crossing and walkways with specimen trees and shrubs. Landscaping examples in commercial set-
- c. Ease of maintenance and durability should help guide the selection of plant species and landscape materials such as paving, seating and other site materials. Use native, drought tolerant species of plants and avoid invasive plant species.

DC3-III-ii. Landscape Design to Address Special Site Conditions: The natural area east of 5th Avenue NE from NE 103rd to NE 105th and east of 8th Avenue NE from NE 105th Street to Roosevelt Way NE will be developed as per the Thornton Creek Park 6 Long Range Plan prepared by Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle Parks and Recreation. New development adjacent to the natural area should consider:

- a. Retaining natural greenbelt vegetation, where possible.
- b. Incorporating gathering areas and lookout points along the edge of the natural area into the design of the project.
- c. Incorporating native plants into the landscape design to provide the feeling of an extension of the natural area into the project site.
- d. Providing linkages to the natural area that direct people to designated pathways and away from protected areas.
- e. The plant list developed for the Thornton Creek Park 6 Long Range Plan can help guide the selection of plant

species. Native plants provide ease of maintenance and durability, and are usually drought tolerant.

DC3-IV Use Landscaping Design to Enhance the Site

DC3-IV-i. Natural Features; Consider design strategies to create natural features or systems that can be incorporated into the site design.

DC4 Exterior Elements and Finishes: Use appropriate and high quality elements and finishes for the building and its open spaces.

DC4-A Exterior Elements and Finishes

DC4-A-1. Exterior Finish Materials: Building exteriors should be constructed of durable and maintainable materials that are attractive even when viewed up close. Materials that have texture, pattern, or lend themselves to a high quality of detailing are encouraged.

DC4-A-2. Climate Appropriateness: Select durable and attractive materials that will age well in Seattle's climate, taking special care to detail corners, edges, and transitions.

DC4-B Signage

DC4-B-1. Scale and Character: Add interest to the streetscape with exterior signs and attachments that are appropriate in scale and character to the project and its environs.

DC4-B-2. Coordination with Project Design: Develop a signage plan within the context of architectural and open space concepts, and coordinate the details with façade design, lighting, and other project features to complement the project as a whole, in addition to the surrounding context.

DC4-C Lighting

DC4-C-1. Functions: Use lighting both to increase site safety in all locations used by pedestrians and to highlight architectural or landscape details and features such as entries, signs, canopies, plantings, and art.

DC4-C-2. Avoiding Glare: Design project lighting based upon the uses on and off site, taking care to provide illumination to serve building needs while avoiding off-site night glare and light pollution.

DC4-D Trees, Landscape, and Hardscape Materials

DC4-D-1. Choice of Plant Materials: Reinforce the overall architectural and open space design concepts through the selection of landscape materials.

DC4-D-2. Hardscape Materials: Use exterior courtyards, plazas, and other hard surfaced areas as an opportunity to add color, texture, and/or pattern and enliven public areas through the use of distinctive and durable paving materials. Use permeable materials wherever possible.

DC4-D-3. Long Range Planning: Select plants that upon maturity will be of appropriate size, scale, and shape to contribute to the site as intended.

DC4-D-4. Place Making: Create a landscape design that helps define spaces with significant elements such as trees.

DC4-E Project Assembly and Lifespan

DC4-E-1. Deconstruction: When possible, design the project so that it may be deconstructed at the end of its useful lifetime, with connections and assembly techniques that will allow reuse of materials.

Northgate Supplemental Guidance:

DC4-I Design Signage Compatible with Human Scale and Consistent with Architectural Concept

DC4-I-i. Signage: Signage should be designed so that it is appropriate for the scale and character desired in the area. Signs should be oriented and scaled for both pedestrians on sidewalks and persons in vehicles on streets within the immediate neighborhood. Signs should add interest to the street level environment. They can help unify the overall architectural concept of the building, or provide a unique identity for an individual business within the larger structure. While regulatory sign review is not in the purview of design review, integration with the overall architectural expression of a building and appropriate scale and orientation are important design considerations. Franchises should not be given exceptions to these guidelines. The following types of signs are encouraged:

1. Pedestrian-oriented blade signs
2. Signs integrated into the design of the building: along a sign band, on canopies and marquees, located in windows.
3. These types of signs are discouraged: Large illuminated box signs (backlit “can” signs) and Post-mounted signs.

BOARD DIRECTION

At the conclusion of the First Early Design Guidance meeting, the Board recommended the project return for another meeting in response to the guidance provided.