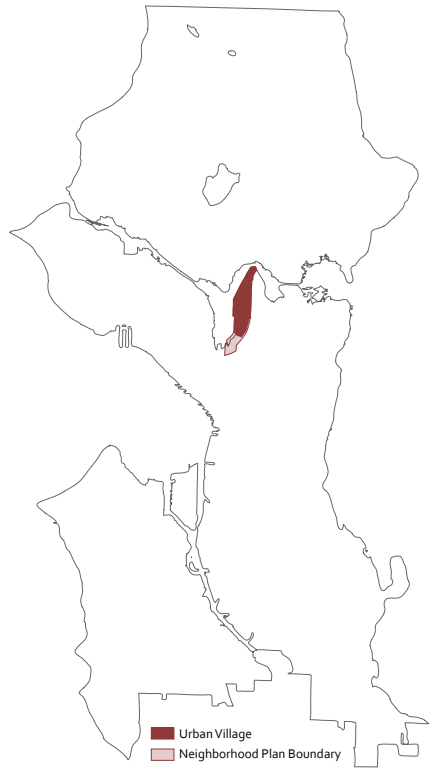


EASTLAKE

Who did we hear from?

Approximately 10 people participated in the neighborhood discussion for Eastlake at the public meeting. Many attendees indicated that they were members of the Eastlake neighborhood and one participant stated that they were from the Cascade neighborhood. Most identified themselves as residents who lived in Eastlake for many years including a few for several decades. 42 people responded to the online questionnaire, approximately half of whom have lived in Eastlake less than five years.



What did we hear?

- Many townhome projects have been built, removing some character buildings, changing the composition of the neighborhood, and contributing to greater density but more traffic congestion and noise.
- More mixed use developments have been built with higher structures, more density, and create a corridor effect along Eastlake Ave, the spine of the neighborhood. Many of these projects have displaced favorite restaurants and shops.
- New development has created greater competition for parking. Many remain critical that lack of sustainable infrastructure investments like sidewalks and bike lanes require residents to use automobiles to frequent local business, but parking is congested and in many cases not available due to crowding and/or restrictions.
- All bus routes thru the neighborhood are often crowded, limiting the availability for neighborhood residents. Many express busses do not stop in the neighborhood.
- Sidewalks are incomplete, especially along Fairview Ave which is a main arterial for walking and biking and in need of infrastructure investment.
- While some see an influx of families, others point out the challenges as single-family homes are being replaced with condominiums, affecting affordability and neighborhood character.
- The installation of the I-5 sound barrier has reduced noise and has been a very welcome infrastructure investment.
- Parking restrictions affect the ability for residents and visitors alike to frequent and support local businesses along Eastlake Ave.
- The addition of parks, like Colonnade Park under the freeway, has been a very welcome investment.

For more information about the Neighborhood Status Check, including the complete summary of the neighborhood discussion and the transcript of the online responses, please see the Planning Commission's [report](#).

What are the similarities between the in-person and online responses?

The similarities between responses are significant.

Both in-person and online

respondents focused upon similar key issues and concerns including the changing character brought about by new development of townhomes and taller mixed use buildings that have replaced character-supporting houses and displaced older businesses favored by long time residents. In addition, the neighborhood has seen reduced transit options, increased parking challenges, dangerous bike commuting and increased traffic. There have been advancements in creating more density, open space and parks.



What are the differences between the responses?

There was little difference between the online and in-person responses. A few neighborhood stewards who worked on the original plan were in attendance at the neighborhood discussion and gave historical perspective to the discussion, but the key issues were very similar.

In their own words...

How has your neighborhood changed?

I've noticed many positive improvements in Eastlake, especially with regard to parks and improved walkability. I've also noticed a fair amount of growth, some good, some bad. I appreciate the efforts that achieve quality results. But I hate to see the low quality buildings (condos, townhomes, etc.) going in where developers/builders only care about making a buck rather than the short and long term effects of their projects. I've also noticed a significant increase in graffiti.

I love the South Lake Union street car, but it needs to be extended down Eastlake Ave. Rogers Playground is a jewel in our neighborhood and the pocket parks (including the p-patch) are great.

More mixed use development, increased in options, although locals have been pushed out.

I-5 defines this neighborhood almost as much as the shoreline and Eastlake Avenue, and efforts to allow people to more easily coexist with it [like Colonnade Park and the newly installed sound barrier] are very important to creating a livable community.

The under freeway park is great. However with the increased residential, parking and mass transit seem to be a lacking issue. Either more parking needs to be zoned, or busses need to be more frequent.