

Sustainability: Building Green



REI's flagship store



Entrance to Cascade P-Patch

South Lake Union neighborhood plans envision an area where people are able to live, work and play without using cars, resulting in reduced environmental impacts. Other innovative public projects include using natural drainage to control the effects of stormwater, and rebuilding shoreline habitat in Lake Union Park.

In the late 1990s, the Cascade Neighborhood Council developed sustainability guidelines that encourage measures to reduce the environmental impacts of buildings. The neighborhood's sustainable development interest led to several projects centered on the Cascade Playground block, including a rain harvest project, the Cascade People's Center eco-renovation and improvements to Cascade Playground.

To support the sustainability movement, local businesses and environmental groups produced the *Resource Guide for Sustainable Development in an Urban Environment*, which provides "means and methods for the development community to engage in economically viable sustainable practices." The Resource Guide compares costs and benefits, providing developers with effective options for reducing the environmental impacts of their projects.



Alley 24 apartments



Fred Hutchinson Research Center

Partners: Working Together

Many of the most successful projects in South Lake Union are the result of partnerships with the community. South Lake Union also has been the focus of bold plans that have not been implemented because of community opposition, including a plan to move the seat of City government to South Lake Union and plans to build freeways between I-5 and Aurora Avenue. The most recent of these efforts was the Seattle Commons. This plan, voted down twice, would have redeveloped the area into a dense mixed-use neighborhood ringing a park that would have stretched from the lake to Denny Way. In 2005, the City began a community planning process that led to the update of the neighborhood plan.

The City is continuing to work with the neighborhood's many community groups on plans to improve the neighborhood:

- The Department of Planning and Development (DPD) is working with the South Lake Union community to update and prioritize its neighborhood plan strategies.
- DPD worked with the community to develop neighborhood-specific design guidelines to guide development in the neighborhood.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) worked with Vulcan Inc., PEMCO Insurance and Harbor Properties to fund the improvements to Cascade Playground.



Workshop with children to re-design a portion of Denny Park

- 1850s** Seattle's first Independence Day picnic held on the south shore of Lake Union
- 1910s** Bogue Plan envisions moving the heart of Seattle to South Lake Union
- 1970s** Bay Freeway approved by City Council and voted down in a special election
- 1990s** Seattle Commons plan voted down twice • South Lake Union neighborhood plan completed
- 2000s** South Lake Union designated an Urban Center in the City's Comprehensive Plan • South Lake Union Urban Center neighborhood plan prepared



Urban Design Charrette, Armory, 1999

- The Seattle Parks Foundation, Center for Wooden Boats and SLUFAN (South Lake Union Friends & Neighbors community council) are working closely with Parks on the Lake Union Park improvements.
- Friends of Denny Park was recently formed to work with Parks on improvements to Denny Park, with the goal of making it attractive to a wider range of users, particularly families with children.

