



HISTORY

- Overwhelming community support for keeping this parcel of land public
- Neighborhood has very low proportion of open space; and no public open space in this arterial quadrant. This site was identified by Ballard Neighborhood Plan to increase neighborhood open space
- Current design developed through a year-long community design process funded by a Department of Neighborhoods Matching Grant
- Recent changes in State law encourage small-scale public/private renewable energy projects.
- Professional survey by Puget Sound Solar demonstrates suitability of site for solar-generating facility
- Redevelopment of site to combine public access with solar power generation honors site's history as an electrical substation while helping lead the way to a greener future

DESIGN

- Overhead, lightweight steel canopy provides support for 189 solar panels.
- Canopy partially shades site without providing full weather protection
- Sculpted landscape provides unique gathering and recreation spaces while screening park from rear of adjacent business
- Walls provide space for interpretive materials and community information
- Paths criss-cross site, providing multiple access points and shortcuts for neighbors
- Play area for kids/exercise and stretching for adults
- Small paved gathering area for a variety of uses including educational seminars
- Terrain sloped evenly up to alley at south side, encouraging access from 32nd
- Solar energy for charging station and lighting allows park to also function as center of community emergency response
- Designed to meet the LIVING BUILDING CHALLENGE, the most progressive and demanding sustainable building standard in the world. One of 5 projects locally, and 70 worldwide to attempt to built a carbon neutral, net zero energy, net zero water use project.



view from entry path to gathering space.



view from play area to shade garden under the solar canopy



view from alley

The solar canopy soars over the park space. The east and west edges of the park would be planted with a mix of vegetation, both to screen neighboring properties, and provide year round color.

Behind the orange barn door lies the equipment room which can be opened to supplement teaching opportunities about solar technology.

Along the wedge's wall, there would be educational information and an opportunity for art.

Under the canopy, the wedge is covered with shade tolerant ferns and plants.

A stair up to a lookout provides a prospect to see downtown.

Along the stairs, a water feature using collected rainwater, feeds a fountain along the pathway.

The park has a resilient surfaced play area for kids.

The view from the alley is open and welcoming.

To the east, a deeper planting bed with a hedge screens the back of the neighboring restaurant.