



NEWS RELEASE

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor
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For immediate release

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GRAND OPENING FOR BALLARD CORNERS PARK

Join Parks, Friends of Ballard Corners Park to celebrate!

Join in a community celebration for the dedication of Ballard Corners Park on October 10, 2009 at 11 a.m. The park is located along 17th Ave. NW between NW 62nd and 63rd Sts. This community celebration marks the completion of Ballard Corners Park.

Veraci Pizza will be setting up a portable wood-fired oven and serving free pizza. Park Designer John Barker will press apples from the trees on site to make apple cider. Featured speakers will include Seattle Parks Superintendent Tim Gallagher, State Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Director Stella Chao, and King County Councilmember Larry Phillips, all of whom helped create the park.

"I am thrilled to see completion of Ballard Corners Park," said David Folweiler, co-chair of the Friends of Ballard Corners Park. "It is wonderful to have this gem of a park in Ballard and see the dreams of neighbors turned into reality."

Groundswell NW will join this event to celebrate 20 years of creating open and green space in Ballard and Crown Hill. Groundswell NW first identified this site for a park and began the development process.

Funding from the Pro Parks Levy was used to acquire the park property. The Friends of Ballard Corners Park received three Neighborhood Matching Fund Awards and hired Barker Landscape Architects to design the park. With input from three community meetings and the guidance of the steering committee Barker Design created the concept plan.

The park was built in three phases. For the first phase, \$150,000 in Pro Parks Levy funding was allocated to project. WS Contractors were hired to build the open lawn, small play area, seatwall, and "skate spot."

Phase 2 included the rain gardens, right-of way plantings, new curving sidewalks, and the "living room" art installation. Dariotis Construction was awarded the contract .The "living room," consisting of concrete sofa, chair and side table, was created by Nathan Arnold, concrete artist and mason. The neighborhood held a series of work parties and did the plantings for the park in 2008-9.

Phase 3, which will be completed shortly, consists of an entry reminiscent of the corner store that once existed at the site. This work is being done by Barker Landscape Architects and Nathan Arnold. It will have interpretive panels on the countertops describing the history of the site and corner stores in Ballard. There will also be custom made stainless steel swiveling stools at the counters creating more seating and a place for neighbors to meet.

The Friends of Ballard Corners' fundraising efforts successfully reached out to neighbors and local businesses for matches for the Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund awards, which were critical to getting the project off the ground, Home Depot, Safeco Foundation, King County Waterworks Grant, and the Washington State Department of Commerce also contributed. The Friends appreciate the help that Councilmember Larry Phillips, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles, and Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson provide in securing funding for the park.

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