



Photo by David Folweiler/Friends of Ballard Corners

## A new living room in Ballard neighborhood

Visitors to Ballard Corners Park ought to feel right at home.

The park, which is holding a grand opening at 11 a.m. Saturday, features a “living room” with a full-size sofa, chair and side table — all made of concrete. The art works were created by Nathan Arnold, a Seattle concrete artist and mason.

The 10,000-square-foot park, assembled from a pair of residential lots on 17th Avenue Northwest between Northwest 62nd and 63rd streets, was built in three phases.

WS Contractors built the first phase, with an open lawn, small play area, seatwall and skate spot.

Phase two, built by Dariotis Construction, added rain gardens, right-of way plantings, curving sidewalks and the living room.

The final phase is still under way and consists of an entry that recalls a corner store that once stood on the site. Interpretive panels on the countertops will describe the site’s history. Custom-made stainless steel swiveling stools at the counters will provide seating and a place for neighbors to meet.

The work is being done by Arnold and Barker Landscape Architects, the park designer.

Funding from the city Pro Parks Levy was used to acquire the property. The Friends of Ballard Corners Park received three neighborhood matching fund awards to cover the cost of the \$450,000 project.