



A Victorian home was built on the south lot of the park site in 1891.

PARK SITE HISTORY

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE rich cultural heritage in Ballard. Modern Ballard was built by Scandinavians and other immigrants using shingle mills, fishing, and logging as the primary economic engines.

On the south lot of the park site was a Victorian house built in 1891. A widow by the name of Sophia Brandt purchased the property in 1937. In 1951 she tore down the old house and built a new home. Her son, Marvin continued living there after her death in the late 1950s. Marvin didn't own a car and walked everywhere, pulling a wagon behind him for groceries. He was visited often by his sister Florence Spalding and her son George.

In the early 1990s, Marvin died and the house was inherited by an out of state relative, Frank Nowadnick. The house sat unoccupied until the city acquired it for use as a park in 2007.

Patty Skommessa lived at 1710 NW 62nd Street for many years, as did her ancestors. She says that according to her father a stream ran between her house and the one to the west of it on the property line. Apparently the source of the water was a spring near Salmon Bay Park that ran into a stream down to Salmon Bay.

The north lot of the park site had a corner store. The grocery store was built in 1905 and operated as a neighborhood market until 1954. It was vacant until 1965 when it was torn down. It stood empty until 1965 when it was torn down. The lot remained vacant until park construction began in 2006.

(Sources: Puget Sound Regional Archives, the Polk Directories, and current and former Ballard residents)



The Victorian house was torn down in 1951 to be replaced by this one story house.



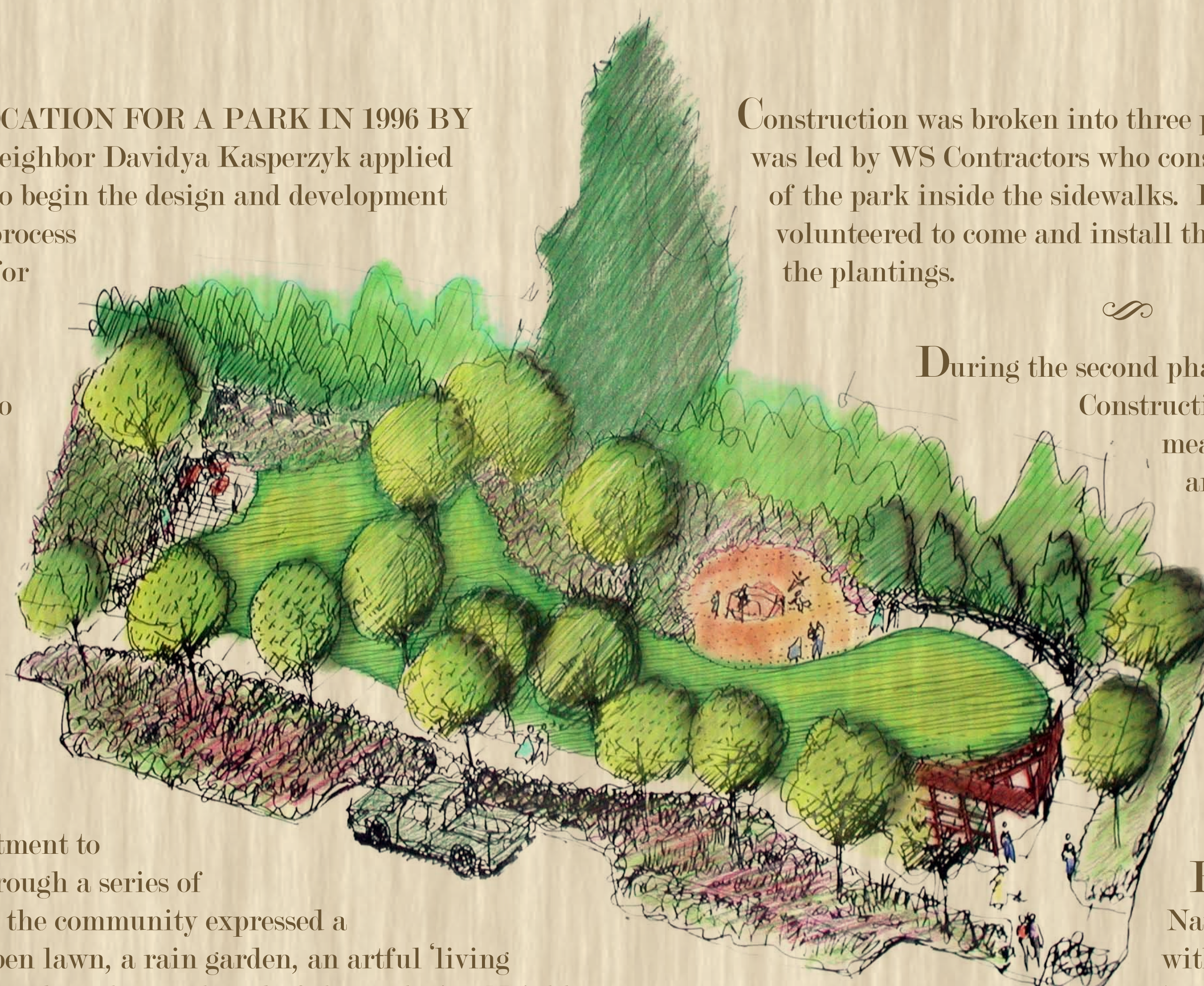
BALLARD CORNER STORES

PARK HISTORY

THIS SITE WAS FIRST ENVISIONED AS A POTENTIAL LOCATION FOR A PARK IN 1996 BY Groundswell NW. In 2006, Groundswell NW Board member and neighbor Davidya Kasperzyk applied for a Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund Grant to begin the design and development of Ballard Corners Park. Throughout the design and development process Groundswell NW provided guidance and served as a fiscal sponsor for the project.

Seattle Parks and Recreation through its Pro Parks Levy worked to acquire the property. \$150,000 was pledged by the Pro Parks Levy toward construction costs. The Friends of Ballard Corners Park steering committee, with the help of neighbors, sought additional development funds through grants, King County, and the State of Washington.

Barker Landscape Architects was selected to design the park with input from the community and the help of the newly formed Friends of Ballard Corners Park. The final master plan was the result of a public design process. Neighborhood volunteers worked closely with Barker Landscape Architects and Seattle Parks Department to create initial layouts and determine the primary park elements. Through a series of public meetings held at the Ballard Boys & Girls Club neighbors in the community expressed a strong desire to include a children's play structure, an open lawn, a rain garden, an artful 'living room,' and an homage to the corner store that once stood on the north end of the park site. Neighbors were also strongly in favor of preserving the existing plum and apple trees.



Ballard Corners Conceptual Design

Construction was broken into three phases. The first phase was led by WS Contractors who constructed the portion of the park inside the sidewalks. Dozens of neighbors volunteered to come and install the play structure and do the plantings.

During the second phase, Dariotis Construction created the meandering sidewalks and the rain gardens. Nathan Arnold created the whimsical concrete 'living room' furniture. Neighbors again came out to help plant the rain gardens and parking strips.

For the last phase, Nathan Arnold worked with Barker Landscape Architects to create the "corner store".



Volunteer efforts were vital to the construction of the park. Here volunteers install the play structure.



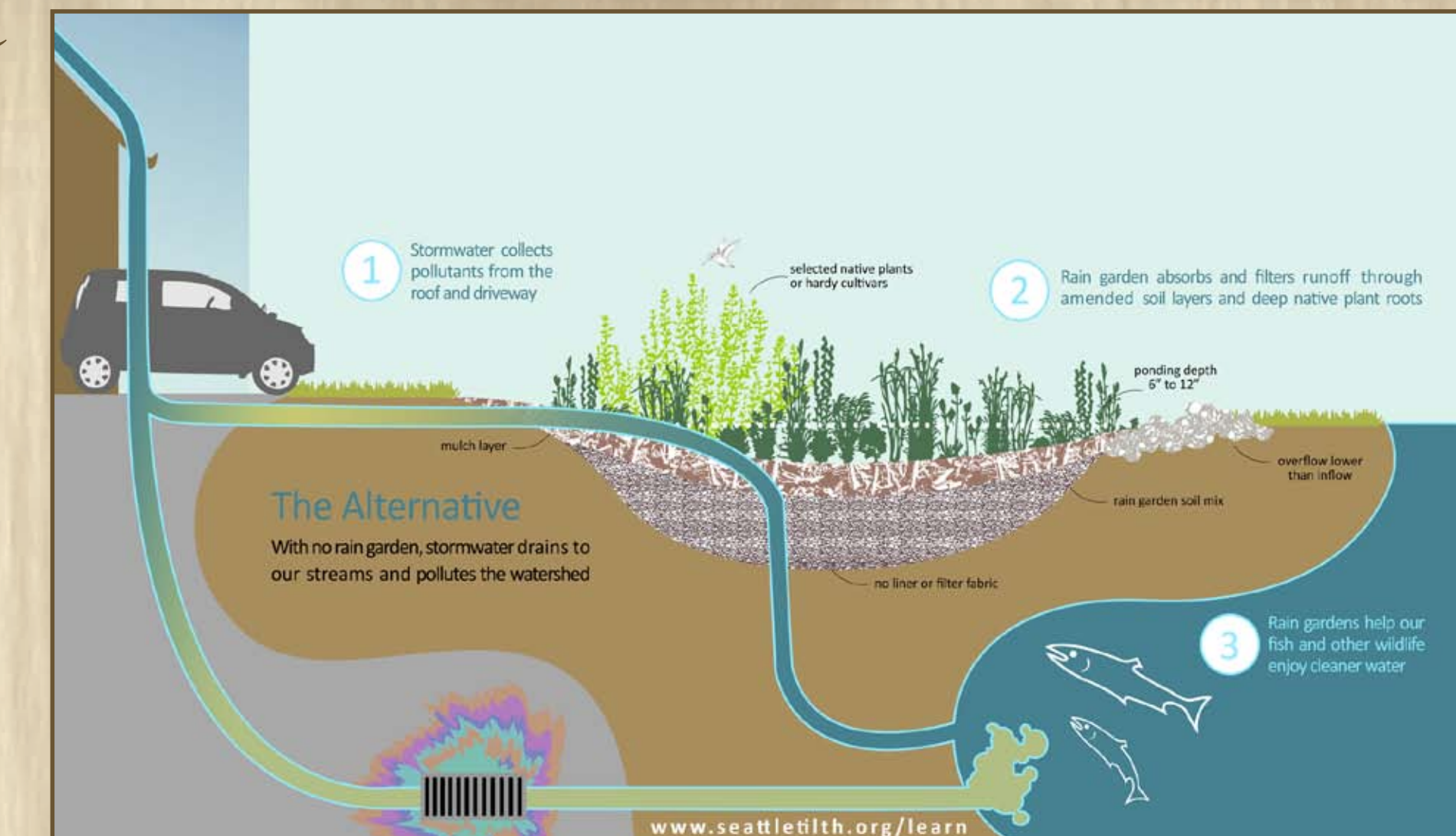
At another Ballard Corners work party volunteers are seen planting the rain garden.

RAIN GARDEN

THE DESIGN OF BALLARD Corners Park includes a rain garden. To accomplish this the park site was extended five feet into the street and a series of basins were excavated for collecting stormwater runoff. The rain garden is planted with a variety of perennials, shrubs and trees that 'don't mind getting their feet wet.' Rain gardens help to soak up rainwater from downspouts, driveways and sidewalks while protecting our local waterways. Stormwater contains pollutants from rooftops and streets. With no rain garden, stormwater drains to our streams and pollutes the watershed. A rain garden works by absorbing and filtering stormwater through amended soil layers and deep native plant roots. The rain gardens help fish and other wildlife enjoy cleaner water. When planted with the right types of plants, rain gardens also attract birds, butterflies and bees.

BENEFITS OF RAIN GARDENS INCLUDE

- Absorbs water from impervious surfaces to reduce flooding
- Filters oil, grease and toxic materials
- Helps recharge the aquifer
- Provides beneficial wildlife habitat



Raingardens divert surface water drainage away from the storm sewers, clean pollutants from stormwater, provide habitat for wildlife, and reduce flooding.



A raingarden was created in Billard Corners Park by extending the curb 5 feet into the street and creating a series of catchment basins.

BALLARD CORNERS PARK