Survey examines priorities for open spaces in Eastlake

The vision began more than twenty years ago with the string of pearls — street end public parks along the shore of Lake Union.

It continues today with Fairview-Olmsted Park, Franklin Ave.-Rogers Playfield, Propeller Park, and other open space projects that Eastlake residents and businesses have supported.

Planning for public open space is a critical issue in Eastlake which, at 11.8 households per acre, ranks number three in density among Seattle’s 18 residential urban villages.

Seattle’s comprehensive plan estimates that 20% more people will move to Eastlake over the next twenty years. These changes will have tremendous effect on the character of our neighborhood unless we take steps now — as we did then — to plan for them. The Eastlake Open Space Planning Team is doing just that and seeks community input in this process.

Last year, the Team focused on the supply of neighborhood open space with an inventory and analysis of public open spaces.

This year, the Team will focus on the demand for open space with an assessment of neighborhood needs and priorities.

From habitat and trails to children’s play and basketball, Eastlake’s open spaces can support a variety of uses.

This assessment will help us to answer the question “What exactly are we missing from our open spaces that could make us a more liveable community?” Beginning with a survey in September (See Open Spaces page 5)
Traffic Signal at Allison and Eastlake in Jeopardy

By Chris Leman

Your letters are needed now to ensure a pedestrian traffic signal (stop light) at Eastlake Avenue and E. Allison Street. Our fellow neighborhoods in the Lake Union district have rated the project highest of those applying, allocating $25,000 from the Neighborhood Street Fund. However, the Seattle Transportation Dept. is dragging its feet.

Please write now to Mayor Norm Rice and City councilmembers Richard McIver (he's Transportation chair, so be sure to write him), Martha Choe, Cheryl Chow, Sue Donaldson, Jan Drago, Jane Noland, Margaret Pageler, Tina Podlodowski, and Charlie Chong, all at Municipal Bldg., 600 Fourth Ave., Seattle 98104. If possible, also send a copy to Traffic Signal, 85 E. Roanoke Street, Seattle 98102.

For questions, call 322-5463.

Some possible points for letters about the traffic signal:

* More than 200 citizens have signed a pro-signal petition; you support the signal and do so do your business, customers, building, children, etc.

* The intersection is close to four bus stops, four parks, a public shoreline, an espresso bar, beauty shop and large new restaurant, as well as many residences. More people would cross if a signal were installed.

* Many pedestrians need to cross at this intersection; street reconstruction reduced pedestrian and traffic volumes, but only temporarily.

* Eastlake Avenue at this point has one of the City's worst speeding problems and one of the lowest levels of drivers stopping for pedestrians.

* Traffic signals already exist at all the other nearby Eastlake Avenue intersections, including the Harvard Avenue and Allison Street intersection, which has less traffic.

* The traffic signal was recommended by the 1994 Eastlake Transportation Plan and recently endorsed by the Eastlake Tomorrow neighborhood planning process.

* The traffic on Eastlake Avenue splits our neighborhood in two, and safe crossings are essential to our survival as a community.

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Be an Eastlake Volunteer
More art for Eastlake, dedication is planned

You have probably noticed the brightly painted trolley poles and soon we will have Dreamboats and Cornerstones too. With the completion of the sewer project, the installation of these exciting new public art pieces is underway.

As Metro electrified the trolley lines for Route 70 through Eastlake, the artist Carolyn Law, brought levity and color to the routine. The poles at the four corners of Hamlin and Eastlake are each brightly painted with a different pattern. Next she will install overlays above the overhead wiring and “Eastlake Waves” will be seen floating above the lines. At the south end of the neighborhood where Eastlake Avenue and Fairview dissect, another overhead installation called Compass Point will draw the lines together.

Dreamboats is a 3-boat flotilla with translucent hulls containing a rich collage of images and text of memorabilia contributed by neighborhood residents. The team of artists Linda Beaumont, Stuart Keeler and Michael Machnic planned the Dreamboats to be functional as well as visually pleasing. The southernmost boat, “R-e-s-p-e-c-t,” at the crossing of Boston and Eastlake is a living screen, supporting a deciduous vine. The central boat, “R-e-a-d,” is on the west side of Eastlake between Lynn and Louisa. This will serve as a community kiosk, with steel sails for posting neighborhood notices and announcements. The third boat “R-e-s-t-B-e-n-c-h-m-a-r-k,” is at Roanoke and Eastlake in front of Rogers Playfield.

Cornerstones, designed and installed by artist Stacy Levy, is a series of markers which give a picture of where you are in Eastlake and also provide an educational component, detailing microorganisms that inhabit the neighborhood. The 32-two by two-foot cast glass and native stone markers are inset into the sidewalk at intersections along Eastlake Avenue. The glass tiles contain the names of the cross street and the Wilkensen sandstone blocks are sandblasted with the images of algae, protozoa and other organisms which have been found in the neighborhood.

A dedication event and art walk is being planned for Sunday, October 5, 1997. Special guests will include the artists, representatives from the Seattle Arts commission and other City of Seattle departments. Watch for the details in the flyer to be distributed soon.

If you would like to help organize the event or have questions, call Lynn Poser at 323-9257.

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117 East Louisa Street; M-F 9-6, Sat 10-3
Sewer project draws to a close

By Pam Miller

The $16 million, 18-month combined sewer overflow project is nearly complete. Only minor surface restoration and landscaping remain of the original contract.

Upon completion of King County's down-stream tunnel and connecting facilities, overflows to Lake Union will be curtailed. The project will also provide an adequate system to convey the waste water out of the Eastlake area without backups into residences, businesses and into streets.

Project related improvements requested by the Eastlake community, and overseen by various subcommittees of the Eastlake Community Council, will continue into September. These include Eastlake Tomorrow's NOAA parking area, part of the new Fairview Avenue Waterfront Plan; North Gateway's Triangle improvements (and median plantings); The Berger Partnership's tree planting plan for Minor Avenue East; and installation of the Seattle Arts Commission's "Dreamboat" project.

The CSO project will be leaving Eastlake with significant, lasting benefits, both above and below the ground. Pamela Miller, project manager, on behalf of Merry Lee and the entire construction team, extends a hearty "Thank You" to the community for their patience, and to the large number of the Eastlake Community Council's officers and committee members who have worked cooperatively over the long haul, to make the construction experience a positive one.

Talks for Urban Village, designs for Fairview Ave.

On Wednesday, September 17 (6:30 p.m. at NOAA, 1801 Fairview Avenue E.), a public meeting will consider whether Eastlake should keep its City designation as a residential urban village.

The meeting will also discuss where our southern planning boundary should be drawn (our neighbors in the South Lake Union planning area have suggested drawing the line at E. Galler Street, just north of the Zymogenetics Steam Plant).

The meeting will also spotlight proposed designs for Fairview Avenue in front of NOAA and along the shoreline south to Galler; the intersection where Fairview has a stop sign and turns toward the southwest; and traffic calming proposals for Fairview between Roanoke and Newton streets. On the boundary and village questions, call Carol Eychener (324-1716) or John Crowser (324-9530).

To link up with those involved in the various Fairview projects, call Chris Leman at 322-5463 or cleman@oo.net.
Eastlake Tommorrow showcased in meeting

Enjoy donated delicacies from Eastlake restaurants and get the latest on neighborhood planning on Saturday, Sept. 20, between 9 a.m. and 12:30 at Hart Crowser, 1910 Fairview Ave. E. Eastlake Tomorrow will report on the progress of its planning teams and how you can get involved in planning for business district revitalization, community design, diversity, the north gateway, open space, and transportation (including Eastlake and Fairview avenues).

Tree planting on Minor Avenue

Street trees will be planted on Minor Avenue, between Newton and Louisa Streets, as mitigation for several large, old trees removed during the sewer project construction.

The six varieties of trees are scheduled to be planted anytime between late fall and January, according to Tom Berger, of The Berger Partnership. The Berger Partnership donated time planning the planting and have now received a contract from the engineering department for the job.

The trees are: “Prairifire” Crabapple, Kousa Dogwood, “Newport” Cherry Plum, Carriere Hawthorne, Magnolia and Silk Trees. Residents chose which trees they wanted.

The next issue of the Eastlake News will follow up with more information about this project.

Open Spaces

and continuing with forums in the fall, this process will gather community input that will be incorporated into an open space plan, as part of Eastlake’s comprehensive neighborhood plan.

You can be a part of this process. First, look for your copy of the Open Space Survey in this edition of Eastlake News. (If you didn’t receive a copy, get one at Lake Union Mail.) Complete it, drop it off at Lake Union Mail by September 30th, and automatically register to win a gift certificate from one of Eastlake’s shops or restaurants. Then, get ready for the Eastlake Open Space Forums.

The Team is looking for volunteers to host these forums — hosts will invite friends and neighbors to their home or business, and the Team will facilitate the forum and provide the pizza. These forums are an excellent opportunity to meet with open space advocates on your own street or block about issues that are important to you.

Open space planning meetings are held on the first and third Monday of every month at 7:00 pm; the public is welcome.

For more information please contact Tammy Kutzmark at 517-4105.
Business Notes

Thanks to Seattle Times business columnist Steve Dunphy for his excellent July 6 column on “The GDP of Eastlake Avenue.” Dunphy, an Eastlake resident, acutely analyzes our business district, where he frequently strolls. ...

Welcome to Bridges Bar and Grill (320-0785), 2947 Eastlake Avenue E. Bridges is open daily at 11:30 a.m.; the bar closes at one or two a.m. The dining room is open until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 on Fridays and Saturdays. ...

Welcome also to Sound Productions (292-9999), 1627 Eastlake Avenue E. #301. The firm offers a wide range of audio duplicating services, including cassettes and compact disks, and will do graphic design for your garage band’s hit album. ...

Dusty’s Sports (978-8700, dusty@maland.com) recently opened at 1520 Eastlake Ave. E. #105, offering equipment for inline skating, snow and water sports. ...

The Craftsman Press building at Fairview and Valley streets was originally a Ford auto assembly plant. Now a few blocks north is Eastlake’s second auto manufacturer, Trique Electromotive Corporation (324-9175, Trique EV@AOL.com) at 1936 Fairview Ave. E. They produce a charming three-wheeled hybrid electric car and a workhorse utility van. ...

Tera Computer (2815 Eastlake Ave. E.) continues to set records with its supercomputers, most recently a ten percent increase in the speed of a sorting process used for oil exploration and animation. ...

Patrick’s Fly Shop (2237 Eastlake Ave. E., 325-8988) is now open Sundays, 10-4; it is also open every other day 10-6. ...

Congratulations to postal employees in the Seattle area for averaging the fastest local deliveries of any city in the U.S. in the first half of this year. Eastlake businesses benefit from your dedication, and know that the UPS strike increased your workload. ...

Kelley’s Personal Communications lost its founder and industry leader Max Kelley, who died on August 5. The family-owned telephone answering business, now located at 1201 Fourth Ave. S., 682-1111) was located on Eastlake Avenue for fifteen years. ...

Condolences also to the family of Frank Granat, who died July 16. Granat was a local property owner and resident. ...

Please send your business news to columnist Chris Leman, 85 E. Roanoke St., Seattle 98102 or cleman@oo.net (322-5463)
EASTLAKE TOMORROW
1997 OPEN SPACE SURVEY

Help to plan the future of open space in Eastlake. The information that you provide in this survey will contribute to the development of Eastlake's open space plan.

PLUS, RETURN YOUR COMPLETED SURVEY BY SEPTEMBER 30* AND YOU'LL AUTOMATICALLY BE REGISTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM ONE OF THESE GREAT EASTLAKE MERCHANTS!!!

- Bridges
- Louisa's
- Rattler's
- Serafina
- Video Quest
- Java Jive Video
- Margi and David Salon
- Rory's on Eastlake
- Eastlake Zoo Tavern

HOW CAN WE CONTACT YOU IF YOU WIN?!?

Name

Address

Day Telephone #

Night Telephone #

Fax #

E-mail Address

Volunteer Interests

Return to Lake Union Mail, c/o Open Space Team, 117 Louisa St.

1. How often in the last month did you do the following? (1 = seldom or never, 2 = at least once a month, 3 = a few times a month, 4 = at least once a week, 5 = almost everyday)

- bicycle
- canoe or kayak
- fish
- picnic
- play basketball
- play tennis
- sit on a bench
- skateboard
- swim
- talk to a friend on the street
- visit a park
- walk or jog
- watch the sunset
- watch wildlife

2. Last summer, an inventory was conducted to analyze 35 publicly owned open spaces in Eastlake for their potential to serve four needs identified by our community: active and passive recreation, habitat, and connections. How would you prioritize these needs? Rank your priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any needs that Eastlake should not plan for.

- active recreation (e.g. basketball, jogging, playground activities, roller-blading, and swimming)
- connections (e.g. shoreline pathways, shortcuts, stairs, trails, and wheelchair-accessible paths)
- habitat (e.g. animals, flowers, greenbelts, natural processes, trees, and water quality)
- passive recreation (e.g. bird-watching, picnicking, reading, sketching, and watching sunsets)
9. Eastlake currently has plans for 3 children's play areas – Fairview-Olmsted park (a natural play area opening in 1998), Franklin Ave.-Rogers Playfield (a structured play area open now), and Good Turn Park (a natural play area opening in Fall 1997). Do you think that Eastlake should have more children's play areas, and if yes, for which ages and generally where should they be?

___ yes, Eastlake should have more children's play areas, for ages __________, at __________
___ no, Eastlake should not have more children's play areas
___ I don't know

10. The proposed plan for the Seward/ TOPS school expansion and redevelopment of the block of Franklin Ave. in front of the school includes 6 basketball hoops in a new gymnasium (available to the public during some off-school hours), 1 outdoor hoop on Franklin Ave., and 1 outdoor hoop on school property. Do you think Eastlake should have more basketball hoops, and if yes, where should they go?

___ yes, Eastlake should have more basketball hoops, at __________
___ no, Eastlake should not have more basketball hoops
___ I don't know

11. Eastlake has a large open space under I-5 between Eastlake and Fairview Ave. near the University Bridge. Currently, this area is used for parking. It has been suggested in several public meetings that part of this covered and paved open space could be used for other purposes. If owners and lessees gave their full consent, what uses would you support for this area? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that you think Eastlake should not plan for.

___ amphitheater
___ basketball
___ hockey
___ homeless shelter
___ leave as is
___ open air market
___ public art space
___ treat stormwater run-off
___ retain all existing parking
___ retain half existing parking
___ skatepark

12. I-5 creates a barrier between Eastlake and Capitol Hill. Open space can create a connection between these two neighborhoods. A stairway currently exists under I-5 between Capitol Hill and Lakeview Blvd. If the connection from Eastlake to these stairs were enhanced, would you use them more often than you do now?

___ yes, I would use these stairs more often
___ no, I would not use these stairs more often

13. Most public rights-of-way in Eastlake contain planting strips. Some are narrow, some wide, some covered with grass, and some with concrete. How should we make the best use of these open spaces? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that Eastlake should not plan for.

___ create habitat for birds or insects
___ enlarge narrow planting strips
___ improve maintenance by landowners
___ leave as is
___ plant more flowers
___ plant more trees
___ provide seating
___ replace non-native with native plants
___ re-vegetate paved strips
___ showcase public art
___ other

14. Powerlines interfere with trees and views. If you were asked to support a project to put powerlines underground, how much money in additional taxes would you be willing to pay each year?

___ less than $1
___ $1-15
___ $15-30
___ $30-60
___ $60-120
___ more than $120
___ I would not support this idea
3. Which specific ACTIVE RECREATION needs should be better served by open space in Eastlake? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that Eastlake should not plan for.

- basketball
- bicycling – commuter
- bicycling – recreation
- canoe or kayak launch
- community gardens
- frisbee
- in-line hockey
- basketball
- jogging
- skateboarding
- basketball
- motor boating
- off-leash pet areas
- outdoor dining
- outdoor vending stalls
- playground activities
- roller-blading
- other

4. Which specific PASSIVE RECREATION needs should be better served by open space in Eastlake? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that Eastlake should not plan for.

- fishing
- lake or mountain views
- meditating
- observing nature
- picnicking
- playing games (e.g. chess)
- reading
- sitting
- sketching or painting
- watching people
- watching the sunset
- watching wildlife
- writing
- other

5. Which specific HABITAT needs should be better served by open space in Eastlake? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that Eastlake should not plan for.

- adopt-a-park programs
- awareness programs (e.g. shoreline walks)
- backyard wetland or wilderness programs
- composting stations
- fish
- greenbelts
- land wildlife (e.g. rabbits, raccoons, squirrels)
- native vegetation
- prevention of erosion
- prevention of landslides
- shoreline wildlife (e.g. beavers, frogs, turtles)
- treatment of stormwater run-off
- trees – plant new ones
- trees – protect existing ones
- winged wildlife (e.g. birds, butterflies)
- other

6. Open space planning can enhance CONNECTIONS within Eastlake and to nearby neighborhoods. Name three places in Eastlake where you would like to see a connection enhanced and what enhancement(s) you would like to be made there. Choose from the following list of enhancements or suggest your own.

- add bike or roller blade lane
- build or improve stairs
- create a shortcut
- create a wildlife corridor
- improve for nature walks
- improve for walking/jogging
- increase safety features
- link to an existing pathway
- provide wheelchair access

1. Place: ____________________________________ Enhancement: ____________________________________
2. Place: ____________________________________ Enhancement: ____________________________________
3. Place: ____________________________________ Enhancement: ____________________________________

7. In general, how do you feel about the amount of open space that Eastlake currently has to support the following needs?

- active recreation: not enough just right too much
- passive recreation: not enough just right too much
- habitat: not enough just right too much
- connections: not enough just right too much

8. Open space can be less developed or more developed, depending on the desired use for a space. In general, what kind of open space do you think Eastlake needs more of?

- less developed or rehabilitated natural areas 1 2 3 4 5 more developed or formal park areas
15. Where would you like to see the powerlines put underground?

- Boylston Ave.
- Eastlake Ave.
- Franklin Ave.
- Fairview Ave.
- Minor Ave.
- Yale Ave.

- other: I would not support this idea

16. Some open spaces in Eastlake are part of an existing planning process (e.g. Fairview-Olmsted Park, Franklin Ave.-Rogers Playfield, Fairview Streetscape south of Newton St.). Other open spaces are not part of an existing planning process. These areas may be under-used, derelict, or candidates for development. If you had money to spend on open space planning in the following areas, how would you allocate the money? Rank your top five priorities (1 = highest). Cross out any that Eastlake should not plan for.

- alleyways
- bus stops
- Louisa St. Arborway
- planting strips
- Shelby St. Hillclimb
- submerged parcel off-shore of Fairview Ave. near Zymogenetics
- under I-5 corridor, north end of Eastlake
- under I-5 corridor, south end of Eastlake
- under the University Bridge
- other

17. To date, Eastlake's open space planning effort has focused on enhancing publicly owned properties. However, Fairview-Olmsted Park is one example of acquiring and enhancing privately owned property for public use. Do you think that Eastlake should consider acquiring additional privately owned properties, and if yes, which properties?

- yes, Eastlake should consider purchasing privately owned property at
- no, Eastlake should not consider purchasing privately owned property
- I don't know

18. What, if any, conflicts of use do you experience in Eastlake's open spaces?

19. What is your number one need or priority for open space in Eastlake?

20. What is your relationship to the Eastlake neighborhood? Check all that apply.

- customer/guest
- employee
- employer/manager
- floating home resident
- parent with children under 18 years of age
- property owner - business
- property owner - home
- property owner - rental unit
- renter
- student

21. What is your age?

- under 18
- 18-25
- 25-40
- 40-55
- 55-65
- over 65

22. What is your gender?

- female
- male

THANK YOU!!!

Gift certificate drawing will be held at the Open Space Meeting, October 6, 7:00 p.m., NOAA Building, 1801 Fairview Ave. All are welcome!