

# Georgetown Riverview Restoration Project – Phases 1-3

The Georgetown Riverview Restoration Project (GRRP) began in 2005 as a park and street improvement project, to help design ways for people to walk, bike, and drive safely through an industrial corridor to reach the Duwamish River at Gateway Park North.



By combining the efforts of residents, business owners and other interested stakeholders, the volunteer Working Group has worked to redesign the street incorporating the needs of people, businesses and habitat. The Working Group hopes to make the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue streetscape, and Gateway Park North on the Duwamish River, a safe, attractive and accessible destination for people who live and work in Georgetown. Park

visitors who venture to the Duwamish River discover birds, plants and trees native to the Duwamish Valley, places to sit quietly and watch the river and a view of Mt. Rainier when the weather is clear.

## Overall Project Goals include:

- Community stewardship of Gateway Park North;
- Safe pedestrian access across E. Marginal Way S. and along 8<sup>th</sup> Ave S.;
- Traffic flow improvements at E. Marginal, 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, and S. Myrtle;
- Street drainage improvements;
- Employee and truck parking logistics improvements;
- Smooth transition of streetscape design to the eventual Parks acquisition and redesign of Gateway Park North.

## Phase 1 and 2 Accomplishments:

- Installed a public art/information kiosk, designed by Georgetown artist, Brian Beck, at the park through a ‘call for artists’ process.
- Involved over 350 people, working over 3,000 hours, through seven organized restoration-cleanup work parties to remove large amounts of trash and invasive weeds.
- Installed wheel stops, and planter boxes with street trees between the existing sidewalk and the road to provide an attractive buffer for safe pedestrian travel along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue between S. Myrtle and S. Orchard.
- Worked with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) engineers and Seattle University engineering students to study and design drainage improvements along 8th Ave.

GEORGETOWN RIVERVIEW RESTORATION PROJECT  
Improved Streetscape for 8th Avenue South to Provide  
Safe Access to Gateway Park North



This project funded in part by a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Fund Award.

Thank you to our local business partners: Markey Machinery, CDL Recycle, the Whitehead Family, Compton Hardware, Field Roast, the Coliman Restaurant, Michigan St. Starbucks, and Seattle Conservation Corps.

- Provided SDOT with recommendations from 8<sup>th</sup> Ave businesses through outreach to help design a safer engineered traffic signaling system at the intersection of E. Marginal/8<sup>th</sup> Ave/S. Myrtle and made recommendations regarding street parking needs.

### **Phase 3 Activities and Goals:**

With continued funding from the Department of Neighborhoods and matches from local businesses and residents, the Working Group will continue to involve residents, businesses and Duwamish recreation enthusiasts in the improvement of this area. Several events will be held throughout 2008 in which interested parties can participate in clean-ups, plantings and share their ideas with City officials. Phase 3 goals include:

- Install a rain garden to improve storm water drainage along the street;
- Continued stewardship of the area through community involvement, work parties and participation in the April and October Duwamish Alive! events;
- Host a design visioning workshop in July 2008 involving interested stakeholders. The purpose of the workshop will be to draft a design proposal to the City incorporating the ideas of residents, businesses and appropriate City departments.

The GRRP Working Group has helped steward the riverfront access at Gateway Park North in an area of Seattle in need of parks and natural habitat. Safety and crime are also very important concerns to both residents and businesses in Georgetown. The Working Group is dedicated to instilling leadership and cooperation of people who live and work in Georgetown, to provide input and collaboration on street safety, crime reduction, and public stewardship of the street and park. Please don't hesitate to offer suggestions to make this project a success.

### **Project Benefits to Neighborhood Residents, Employees, and others from the Seattle area:**

- The Working Group finds this project incredibly rewarding for many reasons; mostly because they are saying 'YES' to something positive for their neighborhood and working to make it happen, rather than always mobilizing against negative neighborhood pressures such as Superfund sites, transfer station siting, and Red Light districts, etc. Working Group members "wanted to be involved in some way to make it more accessible and cared for," according to member Lauren Knoblauch; after working a full-time job during the day, it became "a fun, neat way to get outside."
- Many local employees use the park and the sidewalk over the course of the day. Verina, a receptionist at Trim Systems, walks to the park every day, rain or shine. Will, an Alaska Logistics employee said, "we have our breaks over at the Park – this is our park!" Truckers arriving to work with their empty rig will often stretch their legs or run their dogs at the park before picking up their next load. Boeing employees come to the park on their breaks and eat lunch. Many workers at Pioneer Human Services take the bus to work, and walk along the sidewalk. Gateway Park North is one of only a few public access sites along the Duwamish River, and people feel a strong connection to its urban ecosystem.
- The Earth Day/Duwamish Alive! planning committee, comprised of government agencies, non-profits and community groups has brought hundreds of new people to the Duwamish River to work at nine coordinated sites every year in April and October. Earth Day 2006 brought such notables as Governor Chris Gregoire, Mayor Greg Nickels, and Councilmember Richard Conlin to Gateway Park North, along with 90+ volunteers planting, weeding and picking up trash at the site. Georgetown community leaders continue to plan events there, such as April's Earth Day 2007 and the July 2007 Garden and Art walk, to attract people from other parts of Seattle.

**Get involved!** For more information, please contact Katrina Mendrey, Outreach Coordinator, [kmendrey@yahoo.com](mailto:kmendrey@yahoo.com) or at 206-595-3085.

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