



More Than A Park

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Alice Ball Park illustrates what can be accomplished with not only creative problem solving, but also with robust collaboration with the community and public agencies.



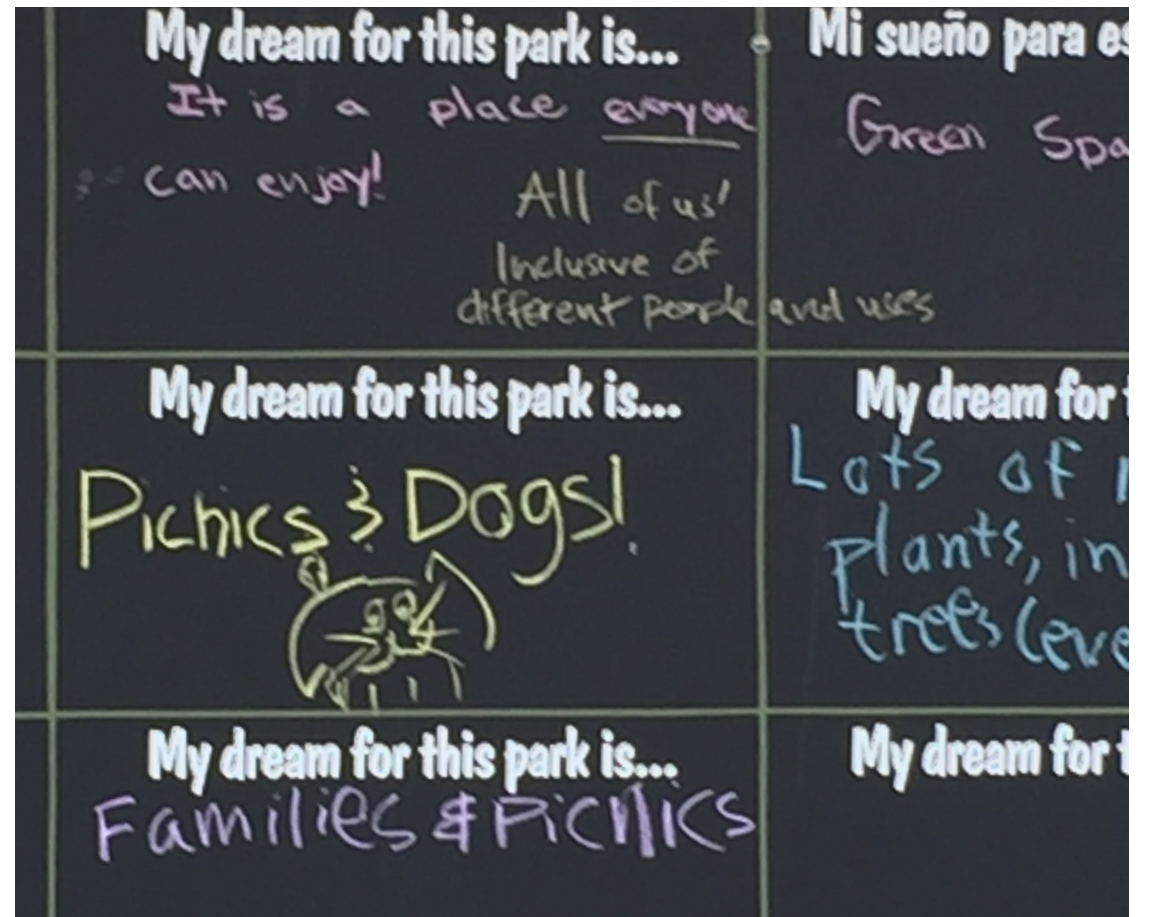
Parking Lot to Paradise

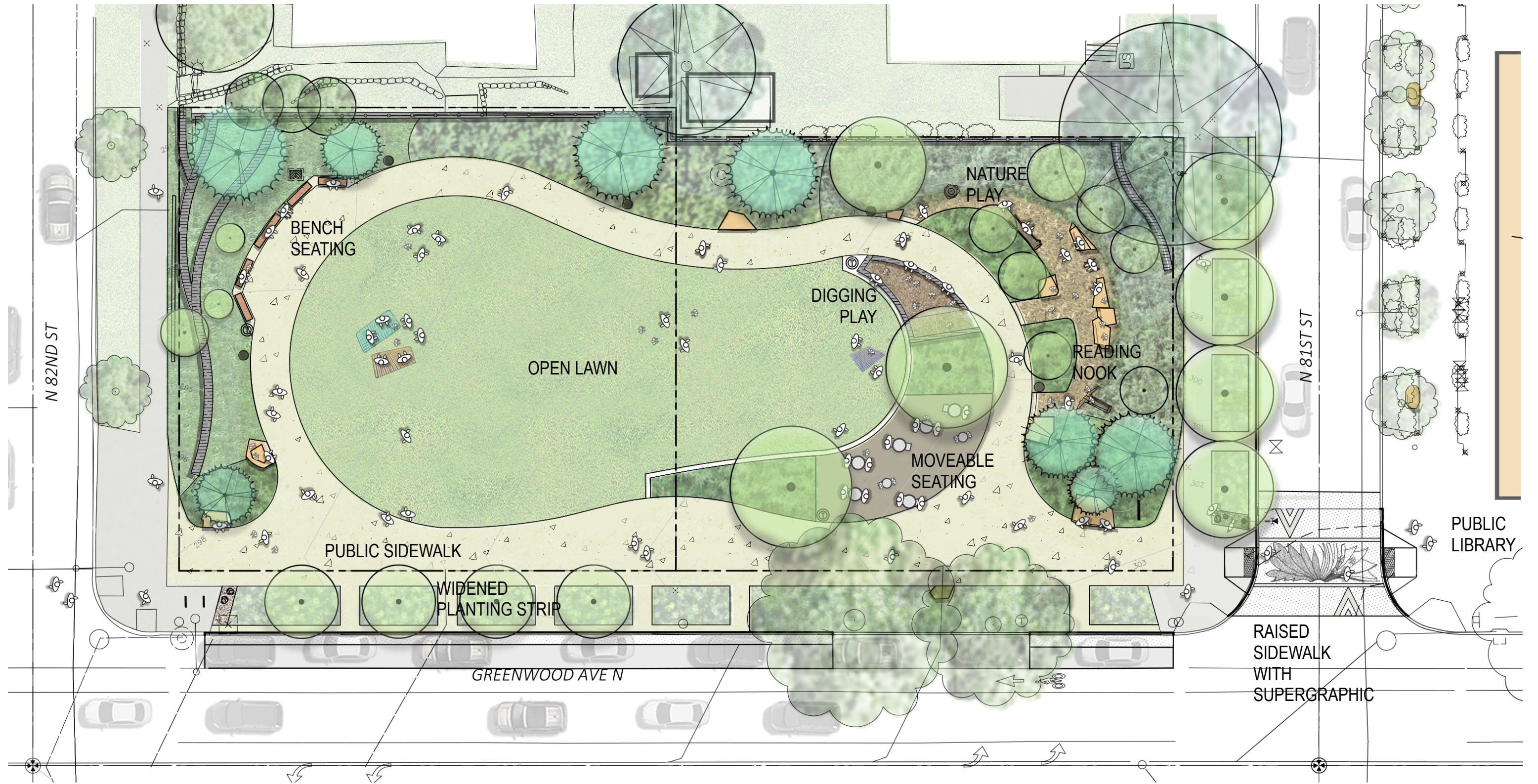
The landbanked project site area doubled from what was initially planned through a late purchase of adjacent property, allowing a complete transformation of this block into a lively community resource.



Community Driven Design

The design of the park stemmed directly from understanding what the community most valued, which is a versatile open place to come together and build goodwill. Folks of all ages participated in several workshops and open houses and naming the park in honor of Alice Bell was suggested by a young community member.





Small But Mighty

Although small, Alice Ball Park includes natural play elements, an open lawn, gathering spaces with seating, loop path, and lushly planted areas. Although there are many functions of the park, the fluid design feels whole.



Civic Connectivity

Alice Ball Park is located along one of Seattle's primary arterials and directly adjacent to the Greenwood Branch of the Seattle Public Library, creating a connected and continuous civic space.



Agency Partnerships

SDOT funded a raised crosswalk connecting the park and library that illustrates a book unfolding and morphing into leaves, expressing the etymology of the word “book,” which is related to beech trees, the preserved mature street tree of Greenwood Avenue.



Creative Play

Photo: Friends of Alice Ball Park

Alice Ball Park provides flexible spaces for creative play, including a gravel digging area favored by the younger set and parents alike. Here, a volunteer helps with sweeping.



MultiSpace

A partnership between Seattle Parks and Recreation and SDOT allowed moving the public sidewalk into the park, strengthening the formal park edge and creating a large, flexible space for community gatherings and celebrations.



Nature in the City

The planting strategy at Alice Ball Park utilizes native and adaptive plants and trees, with a focus on long-term maintainability. Neighbors led by the Friends of Alice Ball Park organization regularly volunteer to care for the Park.



Making a Place

The library entry plaza remodel was removing beautiful stone boulders and Seattle Public Libraries generously donated them to the park. The stones have become favored perches for park and library users.



Celebrating Community

Alice Ball Park represents how partnerships and community involvement create loved places. The park is beloved by the community and has become a center of joy and pride.