

Wedgwood Parks

Facilitating park acquisition and development in the Wedgwood neighborhood

Imagine a neighborhood park...

for young and old with seating to relax and enjoy your coffee. Imagine a natural setting where you can meet your neighbors and gather with your friends. Imagine a safe place for children to play to which you can walk or bike. **Imagine this park in the heart of Wedgwood!**

Wedgwood is listed in the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy for neighborhood park acquisition. We're one of several lucky Seattle neighborhoods for which Levy funds are available to buy park property. The WCC has been working to make Wedgwood's park a reality.

The WCC's Parks Committee has met with the community, coordinated with the City, and evaluated potential parks sites provided to us by the community. Now we are recommending a site to you!

Site Selection Criteria

Wedgwood Parks has created a Wedgwood appropriate site selection criteria. These criteria include primary topics, such as:

- Is the site close to Wedgwood's Adjusted Usable Open Space Gap?
- Is it within one block of 35th Avenue NE?
- Does the site have willing sellers?
- Does it have southern exposure?

The Secondary criteria include: Size, accessibility, location (close to businesses and Wedgwood's business corridor), and visibility.

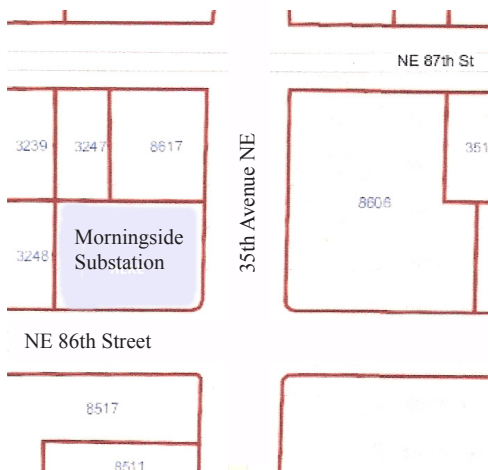
Recommended Site: Morningside Substation

Wedgwood Parks and the WCC recommends the Morningside Substation property for site acquisition because the site:

- is located near the Usable Open Space Gap.
- is over 14,000 square feet.
- has 35th Avenue NE frontage.
- has willing sellers.
- has south/southeast exposure.
- has sidewalks.
- has great visibility.

Morningside Substation was surplus by Seattle City Light several years ago. It has been considered for park acquisition under both the Schell and Nickel's administrations. Seattle City Light has given a temporary use permit to Lakeview Homes to locate their building on the property. CC & Company has been renting from Lakeview Homes.

Wedgwood Parks and the WCC are excited about the prospect of urban open space in Wedgwood, and look forward to working with the neighborhood to design a great park!



Timeline:

What's Been Happening?

Late 2009: Wedgwood community volunteers begin to organize around the Levy, forming Wedgwood Parks.

March 2010: The WCC hosts a well attended General Meeting devoted to the park acquisition process. A list of sites and site selection criteria are generated.

July 2010: The Wedgwood Vision Plan (WVP) is released and documents neighborhood park interests and preferences.

September-November 2010: Wedgwood Parks compiles site selection criteria from General Meeting input, WVP findings, and City Site Selection Guidelines.

November-December 2010: Wedgwood Parks and the WCC recommend Morningside Substation for park acquisition.

January 12, 2011: The WCC and the Seattle Parks Department cohost a WCC General Meeting on the Morningside Substation.

What's Next?

2011: Seattle City Light and the Seattle Parks Department work to transfer property ownership. This requires council approval.

May or September 2011: Wedgwood Parks applies for Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant for park conceptual development and cost estimating.

Late 2011 and Early 2012: Wedgwood Parks hosts community meetings for park conceptual design.

Mid 2012: Wedgwood applies to the Levy's Opportunity Fund to fund actual park development.

2013: Construction of Wedgwood's new park!!



Site Development

Acquisition of property for a neighborhood park is only the first part of the process. If the City agrees to acquire land for a future Neighborhood Park in Wedgwood, site development funding will need to be obtained. The Levy has a separate Opportunity Fund from which Wedgwood can apply in early 2012 for development funds. Wedgwood Parks plans to apply for development funding through the Opportunity Fund. In order to have a strong application, Wedgwood Parks will be pursuing a Small and Simple Grant from the department of Neighborhoods (DON) to fund conceptual design and cost estimating.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Parks and Green Spaces Levy:

In November 2008, Seattle voters approved the Parks and Green Spaces Levy. The Levy provides funds for Neighborhood Park and green space acquisition, Neighborhood Park and playfield development, and community-initiated ideas.

The Wedgwood Neighborhood:

The Levy lists the "Wedgwood Neighborhood northeast of Dahl Playfield" for neighborhood park acquisition due to a significant "Gap in Usable Open Space" as defined by the City.

Wedgwood Parks:

A group of Wedgwood community volunteers formed a committee to work towards facilitating Levy-funded park site acquisition and subsequent development. They have been meeting regularly and working diligently on the details of the acquisition process since early 2010 to date.

The Wedgwood Vision Plan (WVP):

The WVP is the final report for the Wedgwood Vision Project which concluded in July 2010, documents much of the neighborhood's interests and preferences involving parks. It is available online at wedgwoodcc.org.

For more information and updates, please go to www.wedgwoodcc.org and click the Wedgwood Parks link. Email WedgwoodParks@gmail.com with questions.