

OUR PROPOSAL

The James Court Woonerf:

The 12th Avenue community is planning to turn the existing street and sidewalk into a green, pervious space which invites and accommodates uses by people on foot instead of only cars. A woonerf is a creative solution to calm traffic near the busy intersection of 12th Avenue and Cherry Street, decrease stormwater runoff in a busy urban village, and provide flexible open space adjacent to the James Court Park currently in development.

WHY US?

More Park Space Needed

The 12th Avenue Urban Village is currently underserved by parks according to the Open Space Gap Analysis. The James Court Park will be a valuable addition to the neighborhood but at .17 acres, is a very small pocket park. The woonerf will help increase the community impact of the park by doubling its size.

New Residents

The 12th Avenue Urban Village has already achieved 155% of its twenty-year growth targets set by the Comprehensive Plan in 1994. Most of the new residents in the area are living in apartments and condominiums with limited private open space.

Future Development

12th Avenue is the "Avenue of Opportunity" and has great development potential, particularly south of Cherry Street. These future developments will have a huge impact on the community, bringing more residents and workers to the area.

Environmental Sustainability

A woonerf is a new and creative method to meet the needs for open space in an urban village where available land is both limited and expensive. This approach also incorporates green infrastructure features like pervious paving and rain gardens to decrease stormwater runoff. This project will set an easily-replicable example for future developments in urban villages to solve open space issues in a sustainable way.

Seattle University Support

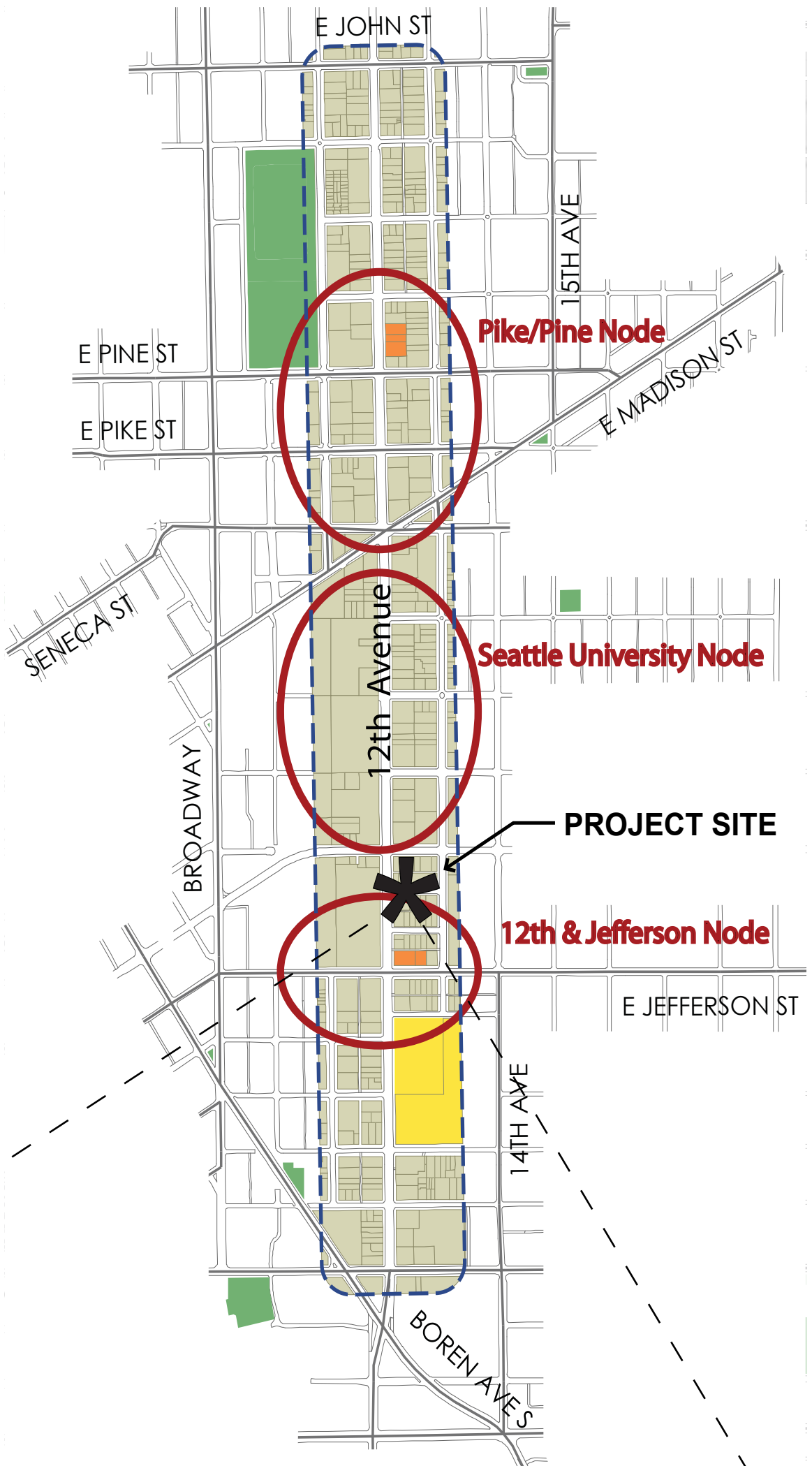
Seattle University is a valuable partner and embraces 12th Avenue as the spine of its campus. SU is transforming an empty lot into a mixed-use project at 12th and Cherry that will provide retail space and student housing. This project is helping to further activate the south end of 12th Avenue.

Active Community Participation

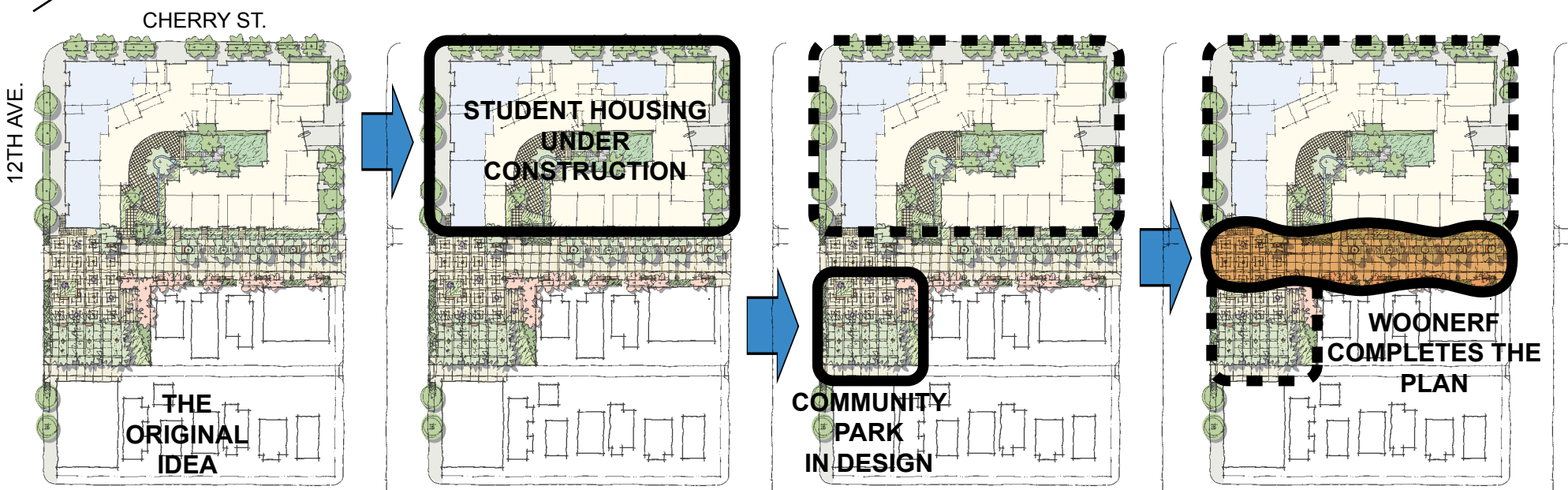
Dedicated community members provide stewardship for the 12th Avenue neighborhood. Residents, students, renters, and workers attend community meetings regularly, help guide projects like the James Court Park, and volunteer time to beautify the neighborhood.

Building on Existing Partnerships

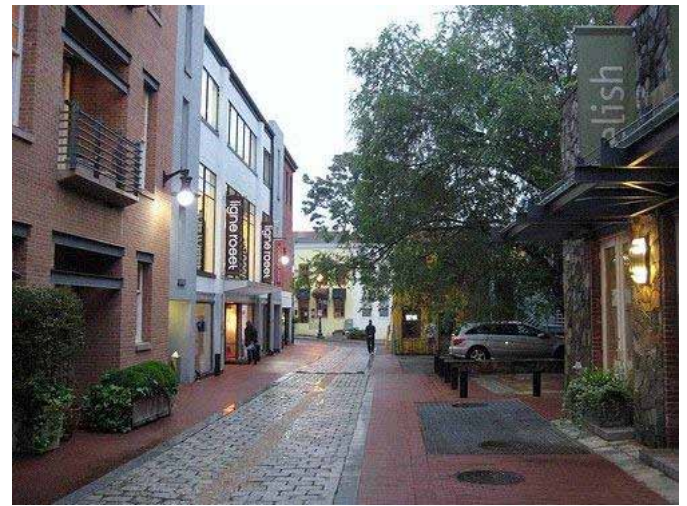
We are in a unique position to build the woonerf in partnership with the Seneca Group and Hewitt, leveraging Seneca's financial assistance for the north side of the woonerf and integrating Hewitt's design work on the development to the north and on James Court Park to the south. Opportunity funds for the woonerf can help guarantee that these partnerships are used to the fullest neighborhood benefit.



THE TIME IS NOW



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



EVERYTHING MIXES



A STREET FOR LIVING



FULL SUPPORT



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June 24, 2010

Pro Parks Opportunity Fund Committee
c/o Susanne Friedman
Department of Parks and Recreation
100 Dexter Ave. N
Seattle WA 981009

Dear Ms. Friedman:

Feet First supports the 12th Avenue Stewardship group's proposal for a woonerf on James Court between 12th and 13th Avenues, on the western edge of the Squire Park neighborhood and within the 12th Avenue Urban Village.

Feet First, the state's only pedestrian advocacy organization, has been promoting walkable communities in the Puget Sound region and across the state since 2001. Feet First promotes walkable communities for health, transportation, environment and enjoyment, helping people take steps that create better places to live, learn, shop, work and play. Feet First's mission and advocacy work has several areas of focus, including informing and motivating policy makers to make decisions that favor and prioritize funding and policies for walkable neighborhoods, and to energize and inform the community at large about walkability issues through educational, interesting and interactive means. The woonerf project represents a chance to meet both those goals, providing both a great opportunity to enhance the walkability of the 12th Avenue Urban Village, as well as create a model project to show the benefits of walkable communities to citizens throughout Seattle and beyond.

The proposed woonerf is a rare opportunity to integrate these simultaneous projects:

- Seattle University's 12th Avenue & Cherry Street project
- East James Court Park, currently being designed by Hewitt Architects
- The streetscape on James Court between 12th and 13th Avenues

Benches, street trees and a less-defined curb indicate to motorists that this is a zone designed to actively include other users, including pedestrians and cyclists, and that they need to proceed with caution. Given the intensifying land use around the woonerf, this is an appropriate and welcome step for neighborhood residents, Seattle University students, and other pedestrians in the area.

“... this forward-thinking woonerf concept – SU/Seneca, the neighbors, and the adjacent businesses all support this project and wish to align resources and timelines to make it happen.”

March 26, 2010

Opportunity Fund Planners
Seattle Parks and Recreation
800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98134

To Whom It May Concern:

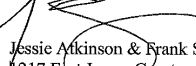
We are writing to support the 2010 Opportunity Fund application for the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project in the 12th Avenue Urban Village. As owners of one of only three single-family houses on E James Court, we enthusiastically support this proposed redevelopment of the park and street in a more “green” manner for a variety of reasons.

By extending the park into the right of way and street through a special “woonerf” treatment the community will institute cutting edge storm water retention and drainage practices, while simultaneously transforming E James Court into a superior pedestrian experience for the entire community. We also believe that the woonerf will help minimize the impact of the large student housing project currently being built across the street by SU/Seneca, specifically calming traffic in front of our house.

Lastly, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to align every stakeholder on E James Court around this forward-thinking woonerf concept – SU/Seneca, the neighbors, and the adjacent businesses all support this project and wish to align resources and timelines to make it happen.

Therefore we urge Seattle Parks and Recreation to fully fund the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project.

Sincerely,


Jessie Atkinson & Frank Suhich
1217 East James Court

“ Working together, we believe that a superior outcome can be achieved – one that will serve as a great example for future Parks-funded projects around the City of Seattle. ”

The timing is excellent because constructing the woonerf leverages design concepts across all of the projects and helps us achieve a shared vision for street calming and pedestrian-oriented design. It would also help reduce long-term maintenance costs because the 12th Avenue and Cherry Street project is responsible for any plantings on the north side of the street.


By using native plants and pervious pavers, the existing right-of-way on James Court serves as an extension of the new park, expanding the feel of the park (which at 7300 square feet is fairly small) and extending it out onto the street, almost doubling its size. The woonerf will create a better living space for the 200 or more new housing units coming to the corner of 12th Avenue and Cherry Street and help calm traffic, primarily people trying to bypass the light at 12th Avenue and Cherry Street.

The proposed woonerf fits perfectly into the 12th Avenue Neighborhood Plan, and will demonstrate creative use of non-arterial streets to the residents of Seattle. Given that 12th Avenue has already exceeded its 20-year growth target as set forth in the neighborhood plan, and that additional development is in the works, the woonerf presents a low-cost way to provide flexible open space for the neighborhood. The project works toward larger City goals of encouraging walking and walkable communities. It's a wonderful amenity for a dense, urban neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,



Lisa Quinn
Executive Director



John Stewart
Board President

“... a model project to show the benefits of walkable communities to citizens throughout Seattle and beyond.”



March 31, 2010

Ms. Susanne Friedman
Opportunity Fund Planners
Seattle Parks and Recreation
800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98134

Dear Ms. Friedman:

We are writing to support the 2010 Opportunity Fund application for the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project in the 12th Avenue Urban Village. Seattle University and Seneca Group are currently collaborating on a mixed-use student housing project that will occupy the entire block on the north side of E James Court (between 12th and 13th). As such, we have been participating in community conversations about E James Court Park and the possibility of identifying funds for a “woonerf” on the length of E James Court, extending east from the park.

We support the park development and the woonerf for several reasons. First, there is a remarkable opportunity here to transform a street into a “shared space” designed to be used both by automobiles and pedestrians. The scale and size of E James Court make it ideal for this kind of treatment. Second, our project at 12th and E Cherry is already planning a variety of creative approaches to water retention and filtration. By extending the woonerf concept east along James, we have the opportunity to create wonderful synergy between our project and the public right away and park that will benefit the both the environment and neighborhood for decades to come. Lastly, this project represents the rare opportunity for a variety of stakeholders to collaborate on design and implementation of this exciting project. Working together, we believe that a superior outcome can be achieved – one that will serve as a great example for future Parks-funded projects around the City of Seattle.

We enthusiastically encourage Seattle Parks and Recreation to fully fund the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project.

Sincerely,

Ron Smith

Seattle University

Jake McKinstry

Seneca Group

March 26, 2010

Opportunity Fund Planners
Seattle Parks and Recreation
800 Maynard Ave S, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98134

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the 2010 Opportunity Fund application for the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project in the 12th Avenue Urban Village. As owner of the building that houses Watertown Coffee, immediately adjacent to these projects, I enthusiastically support this proposed redevelopment of the park and street.

I am currently working with neighborhood leaders and the owners of Watertown to explore ways to open up the north façade of my building to activate the park. I believe that this will create “eyes on the park” so that the space evolves into a positive neighborhood gathering place. The woonerf concept will also contribute to a more positive open space feeling on E James Court since it will “extend” the park down the street while slowing traffic and prioritizing the pedestrian experience. With SU and Seneca adding over 200 units of student housing across the street, this green space will be heavily utilized and important. Lastly, the “green” features of these projects will be essential for effective stormwater drainage and management in our neighborhood as we continue to add residential density.

Therefore I urge Seattle Parks and Recreation to fully fund the E James Court Gathering Place Park and Woonerf Project.

Sincerely,



Steve Bennett
Property Owner
550 12th Avenue (between E James and E Barclay Court)

“... the “green” features of these projects will be essential for effective stormwater drainage and management in our neighborhood as we continue to add residential density. ”