



# South Park Neighborhood Profile

Outside Citywide

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# Introduction

# Introduction

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South Park is a unique and beloved neighborhood that could not be mistaken for any other in the city. The majority of South Park residents are people of color, and the neighborhood is a hub for Latinx communities. It stands out for its vibrancy and dedication to place and culture. A number of active and committed community groups give life to this distinct and dynamic neighborhood, and residents support one another by dedicating a tremendous amount of volunteer hours to advocacy and stewardship.

## Environmental, Cultural + Economic Assets

South Park is one Seattle's two riverfront neighborhoods. The Duwamish River is a Superfund site, but is of immense importance to South Park, Seattle, and regional economies. Four Native American tribes use the river for fishing and/or cultural ceremonies, and low-income, immigrant, refugee, and unsheltered families throughout King County harvest seafood from the river for sustenance and to maintain cultural and community traditions. Existing parks provide access to the river and accommodate recreation opportunities, community farming, and community celebrations like the Duwamish River Festival in Duwamish Waterfront Park. The South Park Neighborhood Center, managed by the South Park Area Redevelopment Committee, and the South Park Community Center, house a number of recreational and community services, and community meetings.

The greater South Park area also includes industrial lands that are part of Seattle's Duwamish manufacturing/industrial center. It provides the bulk of the 6,400 jobs in the South Park area.

Maintaining, increasing, and improving parks and open space assets has been a longstanding priority for the South Park communities. A community-led process created the South Park Green Space Vision (2014) that documents needs and opportunities, and provided clear roadmaps to implement community priorities. With the support of the Seattle Parks Foundation, community members are developing partnerships with Seattle Parks and Recreation and other entities, to advance many of the projects.





## Environmental and Climate Justice

The majority of South Park residents experience a high risk of displacement and low access to economic and educational opportunity; it is a place where the impacts of historic environmental injustice are concentrated. The neighborhood is bordered by the Duwamish River Superfund site to the east, industrial areas to the north and south, Highway 509 to the west, and Highway 99 divides the neighborhood in half. The cumulative impacts from these features have resulted in high rates of asthma, lower life expectancy, high crime rates and many other public health and public safety concerns. Interdisciplinary and inter-agency collaboration and critical actions are needed to repair the history of environmental injustice in this community.

In addition to the Duwamish River Superfund site, the most injurious and tangible impacts to the neighborhood are from the highways, that are not only public health hazards, but segment and isolate it from nearby open spaces. Highway 509 cuts off pedestrian and cycling connections to Westcrest Park, one of the largest open space resources in South Seattle, with 10 times more acreage of open space than all open spaces in South Park combined. Highway 99 creates physical and perceptible barriers to pedestrian and cycling connectivity. A section of the Duwamish Trail that travels along the east side of Highway 99 and leads to the only pedestrian bridge across it, has been nicknamed 'The Scary Trail' by local children because it is difficult, scary, and unsafe for children to navigate across the highway to get to school. The Community Center and its playground and playfields, the library, and school are within the highway's high toxicity zone (500 ft). Exposure to particulate matter from car exhaust in this zone has been linked to early mortality, birth defects, and a wide range of other illnesses, and is especially hazardous for children.

The industrial portion of the South Park neighborhood is more vulnerable to rising sea levels than any other neighborhood in Seattle. Drainage capacity is also limited and the flood risk is high in many parts of the neighborhood. Creating more streets and open spaces with green stormwater infrastructure components, including facilities to capture and retain stormwater will help to improve environmental quality and buffer South Park from future flooding risks.

## A Bright Future

South Park is a place where public agencies need to come together to repair environmental injustices while looking upstream to support local economies and mitigate displacement pressures. The complex issues in the community are steeped in decades of systemic inequality, and will require thoughtful processes to persistently challenge the status quo of contemporary development. South Park community members and organizations are engaged in amazing work to address the challenges in their environment, and it is incumbent upon public institutions to partner and support these efforts. The potential is here to create rich and beneficial relationships that will foster a vibrant, healthy, and just future for South Park.

# Community-Identified Priorities

# Community-Identified Priorities

In recent years, South Park residents have dedicated lots of time and energy into identifying and addressing their top priorities for their neighborhood. The following list is based on the community priorities identified through the development of the Duwamish Valley Action Plan (2018), the South Park Green Space Vision Plan (2014), and other recent engagement activities in the neighborhood.

## Healthy Environment

- Air pollution from industry and arterial roads
- Noise pollution along heavy trafficked roadways
- Water quality and ecological restoration of the Duwamish Waterway
- Lack of public access to natural areas

## Parks & Open Space

- Access to the Duwamish waterway
- Need for more and improved play areas
- Improvements and maintenance for existing parks and open space
- Neighborhood connections and way-finding



### Duwamish Valley Action Plan

Advancing Environmental Justice & Equitable Development in Seattle



[Click here to view the complete report](#)

## Community Capacity

- Preserving and growing community controlled spaces and distinct cultural anchors
- Increased accesses to partnerships and grants
- Governments actions support local communities

## Mobility and Transportation

- Safe pedestrian and bicyclist routes
- Traffic calming and safety along trucking routes and speedways
- Street edge environment

## Economic Opportunities and Jobs

- Support of small businesses
- Youth pathways
- Green career opportunities

## Affordable Housing

- Affordability with livability
- Major concerns around residential and small business displacement

## Public Safety

- Lighting and visibility for community surveillance
- Graffiti, trash, and crime in public spaces
- ICE and over policing of immigrants, people of color, and people experiencing homelessness



## Recent Community Engagement

Members of the Outside Citywide team attended the Duwamish River Festival and a community carnival in the summer of 2018 to touch base on community priorities, visions, and ideas for public space in South Park.

### RESULTS

Participants expressed a desire for green and inviting opportunities to walk or bike to parks, for more opportunities to play, gather, and socialize, and for better access to nature and water. Additionally, participants expressed interest in:

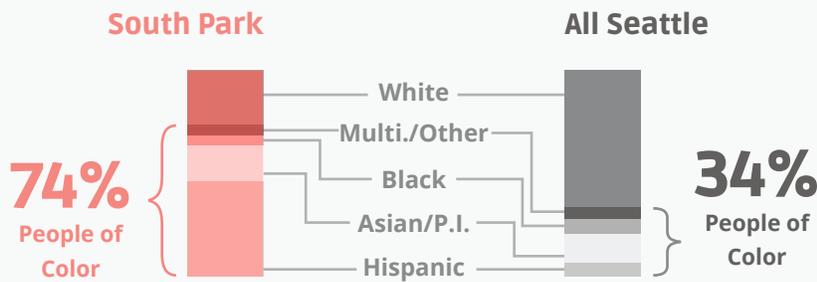
- Playgrounds and splash parks
- Lush plantings and connections to the river
- Sports fields
- Street trees and green pedestrian and bicycle routes
- Artful way-finding to connect parks and open spaces
- Spaces for events and festivals
- Places to picnic, barbecue, and socialize



# **Neighborhood Characteristics + Conditions**

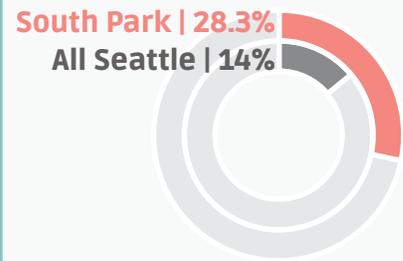
# Neighborhood Characteristics + Conditions

## Race/Ethnicity



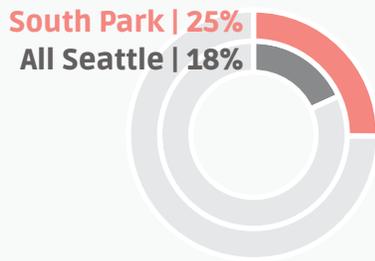
Source: ACS 2013

## Below Poverty Level



Source: ACS 2013

## Foreign Born



Source: ACS 2016

## Access to Opportunity

**VERY LOW**

(Based on school performance, jobs, and access to transit, libraries, fresh produce, community centers, parks, etc.)

Source: City of Seattle

## Displacement Risk

**HIGH**

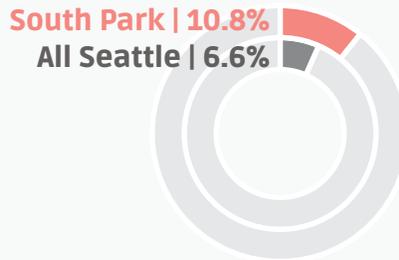
Source: City of Seattle

## Health Outcomes



Asthma

Source: CDC 500 Cities



Diabetes

**73.3 yrs.**

South Park

**82.3 yrs.**

All Seattle

Life Expectancy

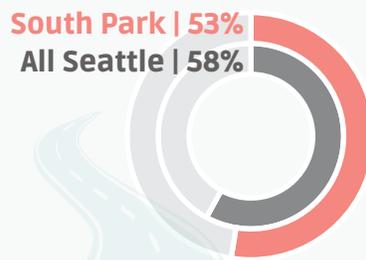
Source: NCHS 2018

## Tree Canopy



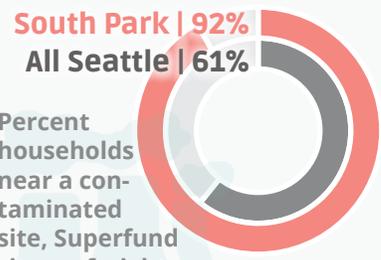
Source: City of Seattle

## Impervious Surfaces



Source: City of Seattle

## Pollution and Contamination



Percent households near a contaminated site, Superfund site, or freight corridor

Source: City of Seattle

# COMMUNITY + CULTURAL ANCHORS



## LEGEND

- ★ Spiritual centers
- ① South Park Neighborhood Center
- ② South Park Community Center
- ③ South Park Library
- ④ Concord International Elementary School
- ⑤ Sea Mar Community Health Center
- ⑥ Business district

# TOPOGRAPHY + PAST LANDSCAPES

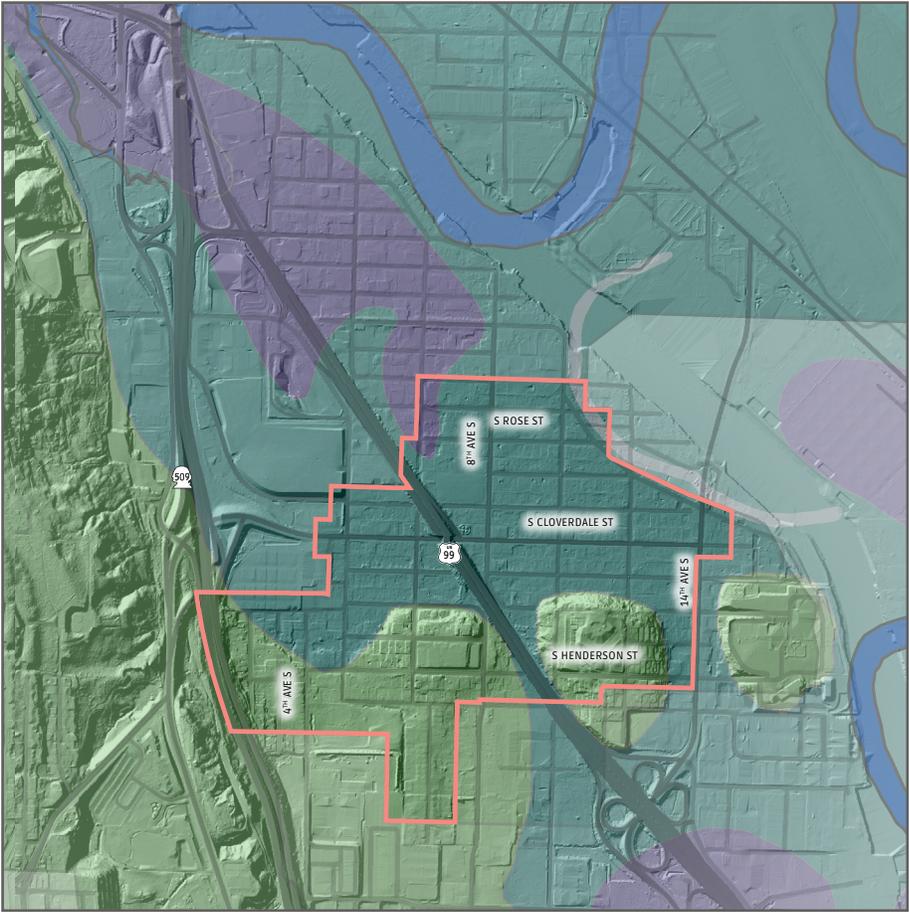
## LEGEND

■ Current Topography

Past Landscapes + Hydrology

*From the Waterlines Project*

- Duwamish River
- Floodplain Forest
- Wetland
- Upland Forest



# SEA LEVEL RISE



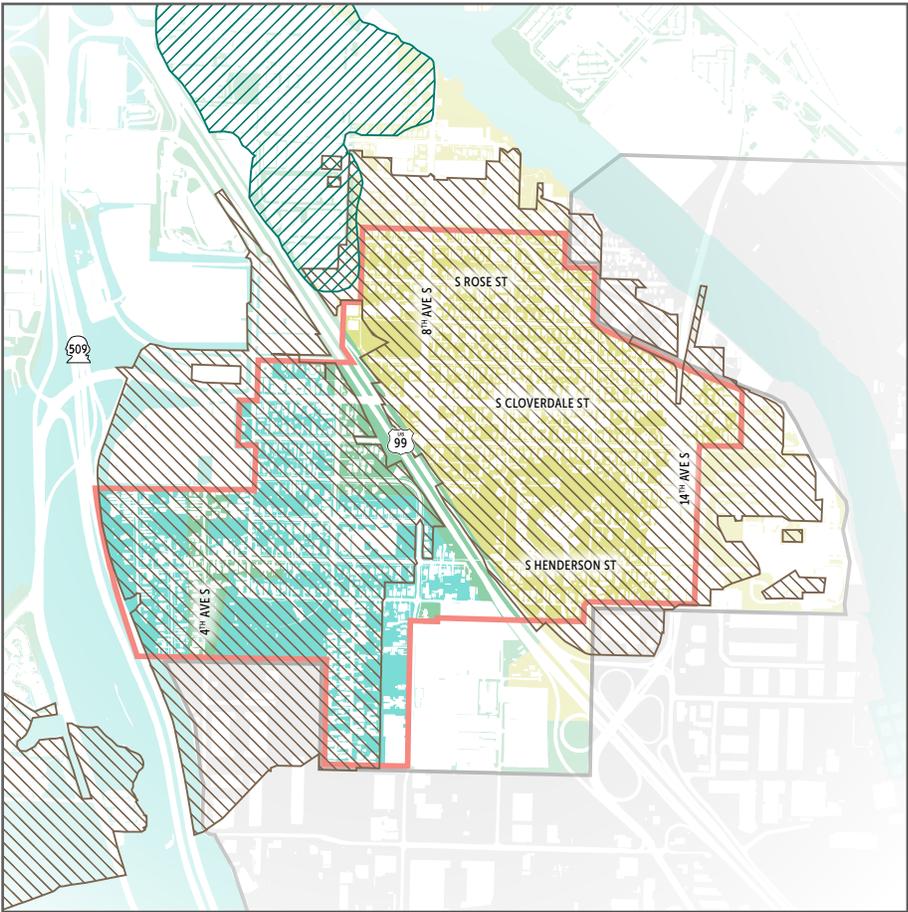
## LEGEND

- 2 feet above MHHW
- 3 feet above MHHW
- 4 feet above MHHW
- 5 feet above MHHW

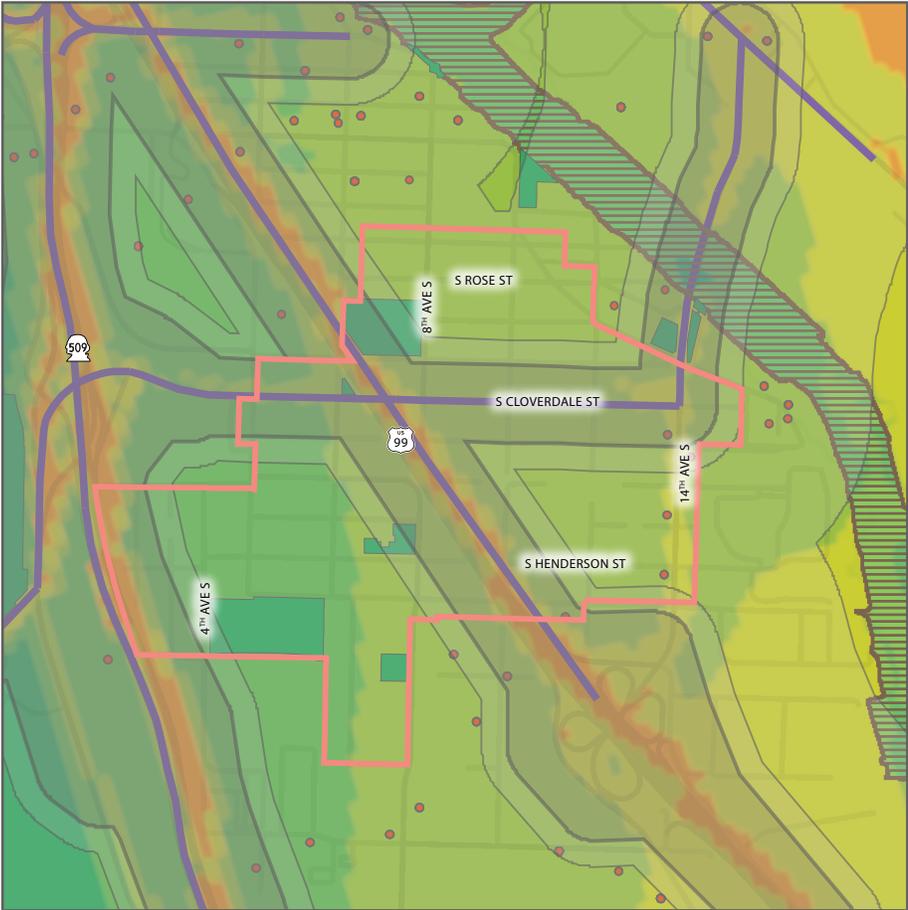
# DRAINAGE

## LEGEND

- Drainage Capacity Constrained
  - Flood-prone
  - Impervious surface
- Sewer Classifications
- Separated
  - Partially separated
  - Combined



# POLLUTION



## LEGEND

-  Superfund site
-  Contaminated or suspected contaminated site
-  Freight routes

Noise pollution	Air toxicity
 Low	 Severe (0-300 ft)
 Mild	 High (300-500ft)
 Moderate	 Elevated (500-1,500 ft)
 Loud	
 Severe	

# ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

## LEGEND

-  Volcanic sediment risk
-  Liquefaction risk
- Earthquake risk
  -  High
  -  Moderate
- Landslide risk
  -  Known slide area
  -  Potential slide area



# ECOLOGY

## LEGEND

- Wildlife habitat
- Wetlands
- 200' shoreline buffer
- Riparian area



# SAFETY

## LEGEND

Safety incidents  
(Police incident reports and pedestrian collisions)

- Very high occurrence
- Low occurrence



# PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS

From the 2017 Pedestrian Master Plan, SDOT

## LEGEND

Pedestrian Investment Network  
(Right of way identified for improvement)

- Arterial street - no sidewalk
- Non-arterial street - no sidewalk
- Arterial street - sidewalk
- Non-arterial street - sidewalk
- Trails
- Frequent transit bus stop



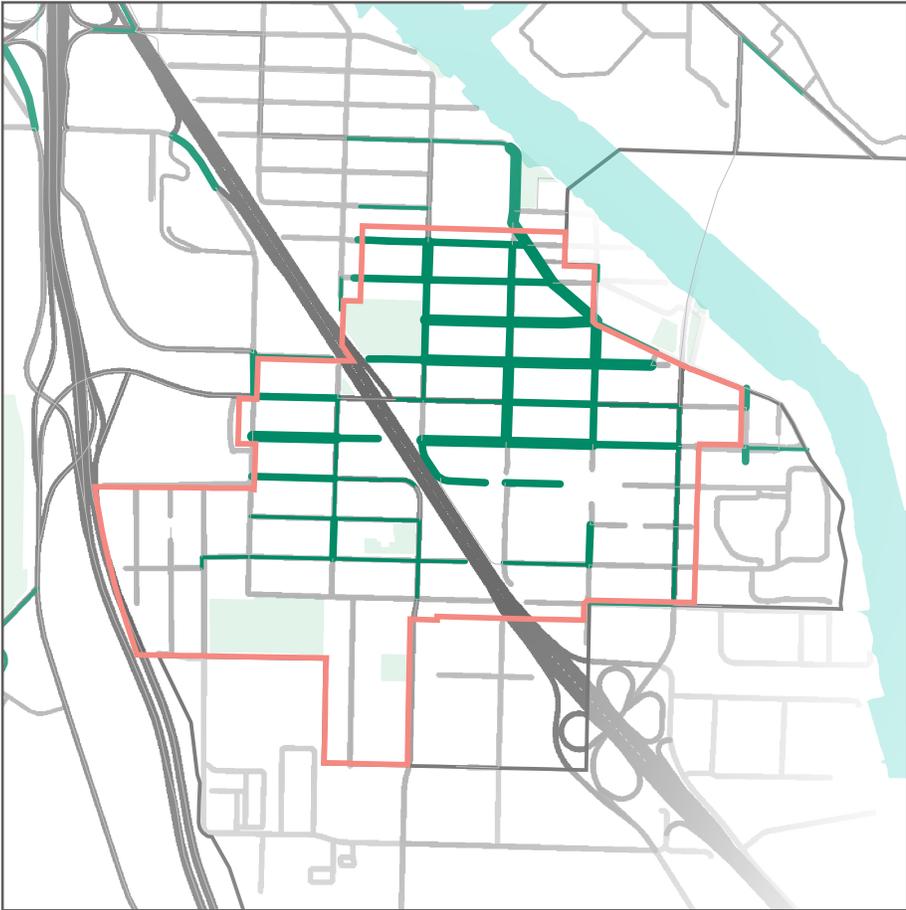
# SIDEWALKS + CROSSWALKS

## LEGEND

- Sidewalk
- Crosswalk



# STREET TREES



## LEGEND

Street Tree Canopy Cover  
 (Total diameter of all street trees on a block divided by the block length)

- High canopy cover
- Medium canopy cover
- Low canopy cover
- No canopy cover

# BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

From the 2014 Bicycle Master Plan, SDOT

## LEGEND

Existing

- In street, major separation
- In street, minor separation
- Multi-use trail
- Neighborhood greenway
- Sharrow

Planned

- In street, major separation
- In street, minor separation
- Multi-use trail
- Neighborhood greenway
- Sharrow

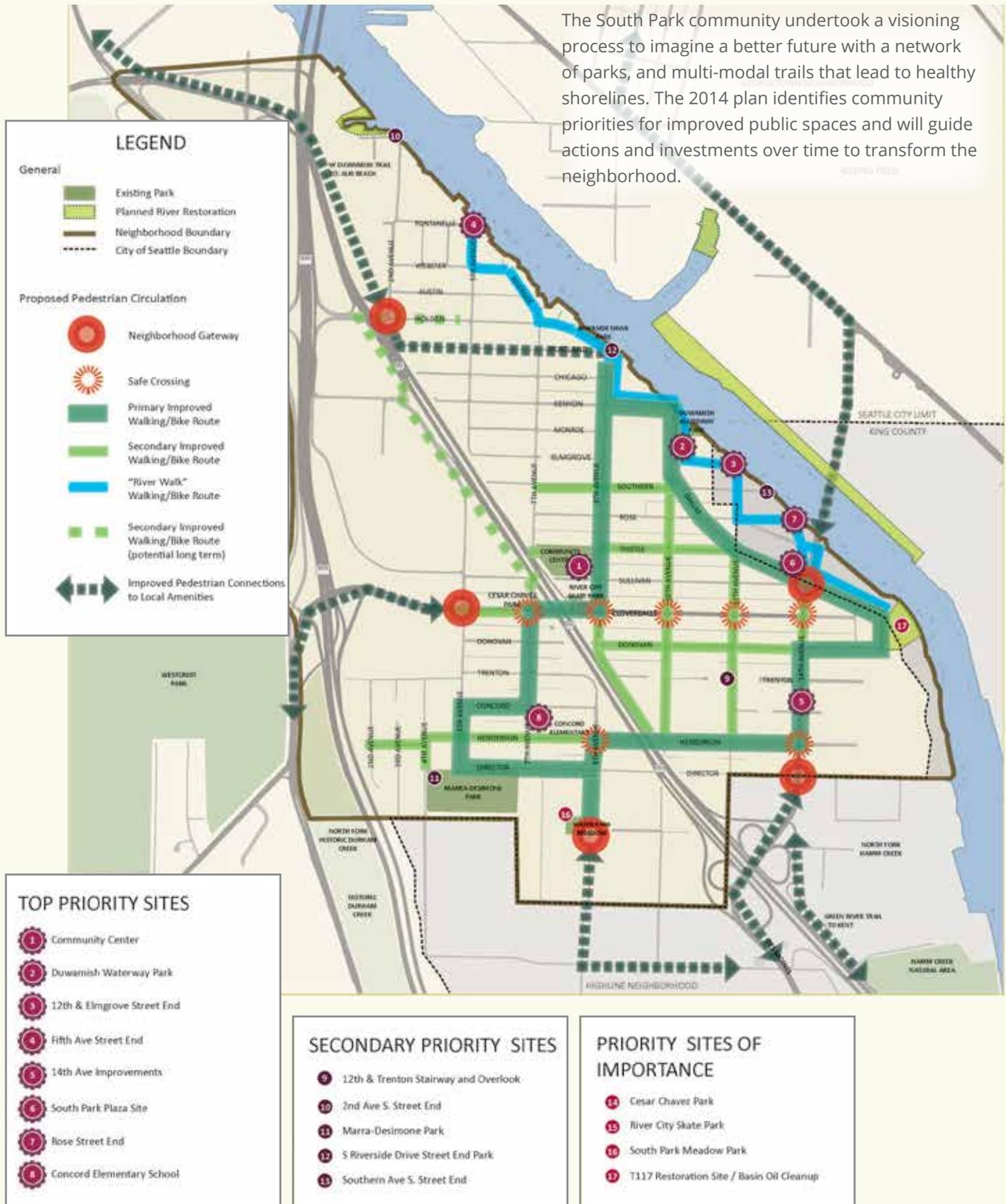


# Public Space in South Park

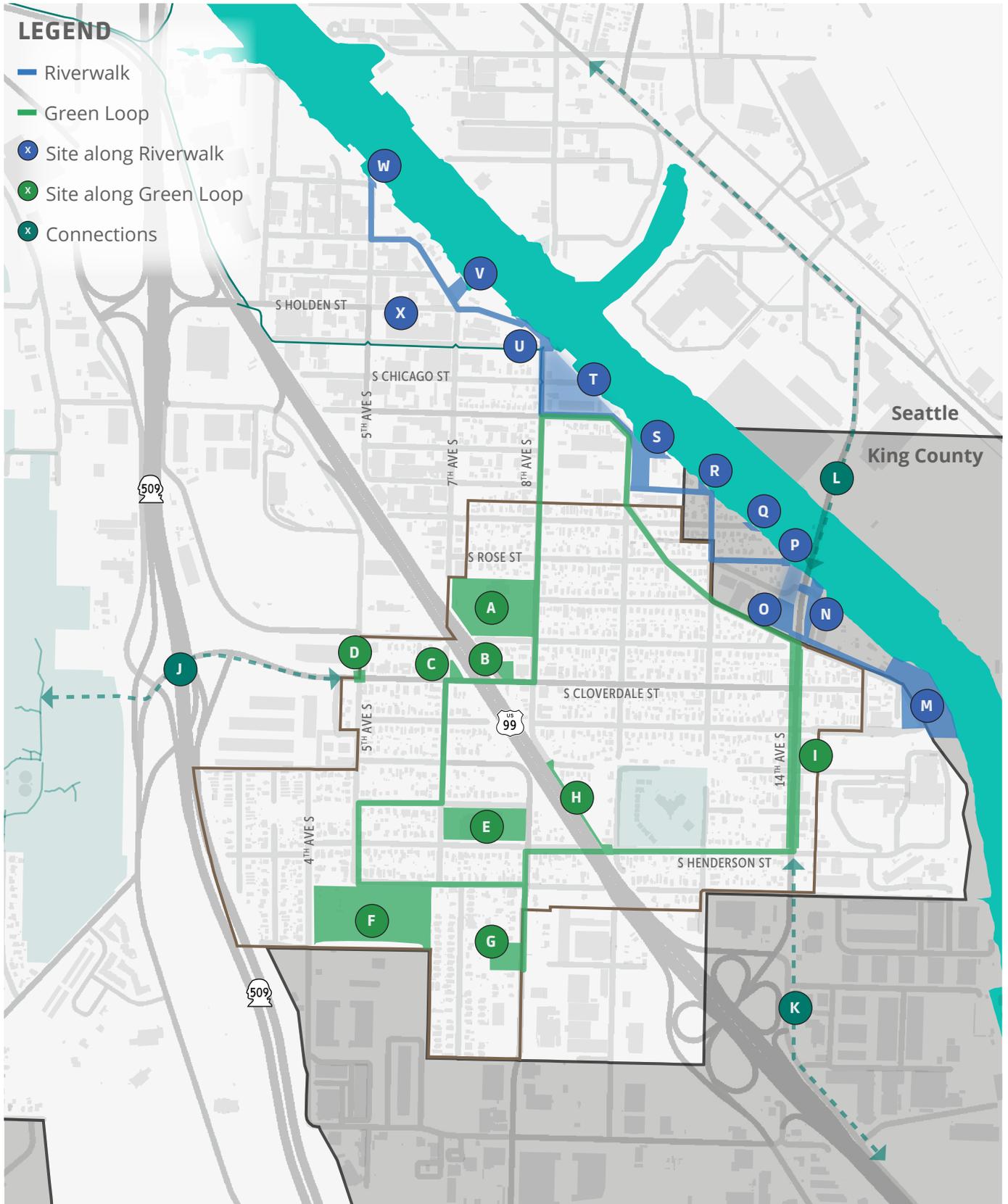
# South Park Green Space Vision Plan

Seattle Parks Foundation | June 2014

The South Park community undertook a visioning process to imagine a better future with a network of parks, and multi-modal trails that lead to healthy shorelines. The 2014 plan identifies community priorities for improved public spaces and will guide actions and investments over time to transform the neighborhood.



# The South Park Riverwalk + Green Loop



# Site Information:



## SOUTH PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

**OWNER(S):** SPR

**STATUS:** Completed concept design, schematic design in progress. Funding available for play area. Awaiting additional funding

**NEEDS:** Clear cost estimates. Additional funding.

**TIMELINE:** Design development completion Q1 2019. Construction anticipated late 2020.



## 5TH + CLOVERDALE

**OWNER(S):** SDOT

**PARTNERS:** SPU, SDOT, Friends of 5th + Cloverdale

**STATUS:** 30% designs.



## RIVER CITY SKATE PARK

**OWNER(S):** Sea Mar

**STATUS:** Community-maintained.

**NEEDS:** An agency to take on ownership/ maintenance responsibility.



## CONCORD ELEMENTARY

**OWNER(S):** SPS

**STATUS:** Phase 1 improvements complete.

**NEEDS:** Funding for phase 2. Permitting assistance.



## CLOVERDALE UNDERPASS + CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

**OWNER(S):** King County, WSDOT, SDOT

**STATUS:** Some improvements to underpass planned (pigeon spikes). Park is completed.

**NEEDS:** Better lighting + pedestrian environment under the bridge. Park activation.



## MARRA-DESIMONE PARK

**OWNER(S):** SPR

**STATUS:** Design completed, bidding late 2018.

**NEEDS:** Additional funding.

**TIMELINE:** Construction summer 2019.



## SOUTH PARK MEADOW

**OWNER(S):** SPR

**STATUS:** Could be improved.

**NEEDS:** Site furniture, signage + wayfinding, lighting.



## CONNECTION TO WESTCREST PARK + ALL POINTS WEST

**OWNER(S):** SDOT, SPR, WSDOT

**STATUS:** Concept designs by SDOT for pedestrian improvements on the overpass.

**NEEDS:** Pedestrian improvements westward from the neighborhood to and across 509. Connection within Westcrest park from the east up to the existing trail network.



## 8TH AVENUE TRAIL

**OWNER(S):** WSDOT + others.

**STATUS:** Seattle Neighborhood Group leading safety improvements. SCL recently installed new lighting.

**NEEDS:** Noise barrier from 99. Safety improvements. Maintenance agreement.



## GREEN RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION

**OWNER(S):** WSDOT, SDOT

**STATUS:** Design phase.

**NEEDS:** Continuation/connection into Seattle.



## 14TH AVE S.

**OWNER(S):** SDOT, Private

**STATUS:** Community-led project for a South Park gateway where 14th meets County lines.

**NEEDS:** Traffic calming, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, urban design improvements to support small businesses and cultural anchors.



## SOUTH PARK/GEORGETOWN CONNECTION

**OWNER(S):** SDOT

**STATUS:** Funding for 30% design. Community engagement by Duwamish Valley Safe Streets and SDOT.

**NEEDS:** Funding for implementation.



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### T-117

**OWNER(S):** Port of Seattle

**STATUS:** Phase 1 (cleanup) complete.



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### ROSE STREET END

**OWNER(S):** King County

**STATUS:** Delayed in response to conversation around potential annexation.

**NEEDS:** Connection to South Park Plaza. Improvements. Rowing club boat storage and river access.

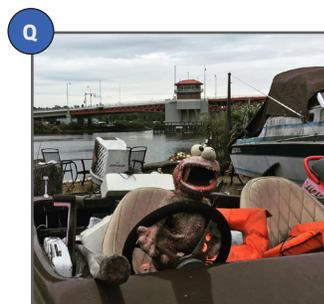


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### SOUTH PARK BRIDGE TRAIL

**OWNER(S):** King County

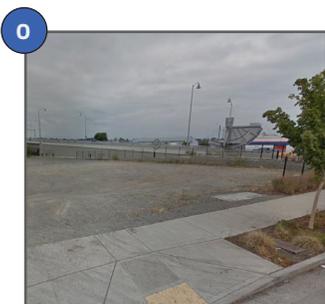
**STATUS:** Completed.



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### SOUTHERN AVE S. STREET END

**OWNER(S):** King County, DNR



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### SOUTH PARK PLAZA

**OWNER(S):** SPR

**STATUS:** Landbanked. Early planning for development in progress. Interim activation planning in progress.

**NEEDS:** Temporary activation strategy.



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### 12TH + ELMGROVE

**OWNER(S):** SPU

**STATUS:** Original intent for SPU's use of property is no longer needed. Determining future plans for site.

**NEEDS:** Understanding if other entity is interested in purchasing property in collaboration with community vision, or if community is interested in a long term lease of the site.



## DUWAMISH WATERWAY PARK

**OWNER(S):** SPR, King County, + SDOT

**STATUS:** Construction documents nearly complete for improvements.

**NEEDS:** Permitting and additional funding.



## PUMP STATION

**OWNER(S):** SPU

**STATUS:** Midway through construction documents development.

**NEEDS:** Input on programming/community benefits.

**TIMELINE:** Final design 2019. Construction 2020-2021.



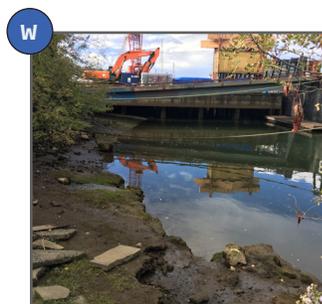
## POTENTIAL SPU WATER QUALITY FACILITY

**OWNER(S):** SPU. Siting decision not finalized.

**STATUS:** Initial planning phase.

**NEEDS:** Input on siting and programming/community benefits.

**TIMELINE:** Built by 2025. Sited by 2019.



## FIFTH AVE STREET END

**OWNER(S):** SDOT, DNR

**STATUS:** Technical issues encountered.

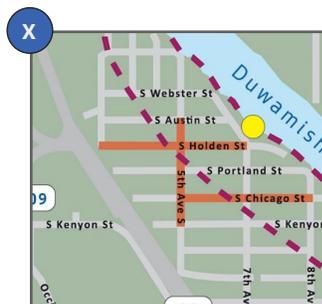
**NEEDS:** Design improvements to make space usable for industrial workers.



## GEAR PARK

**OWNER(S):** SDOT, Port.

**STATUS:** Completed.



## CONVEYANCE AND ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

**OWNER(S):** SDOT

**STATUS:** Early Design Development.

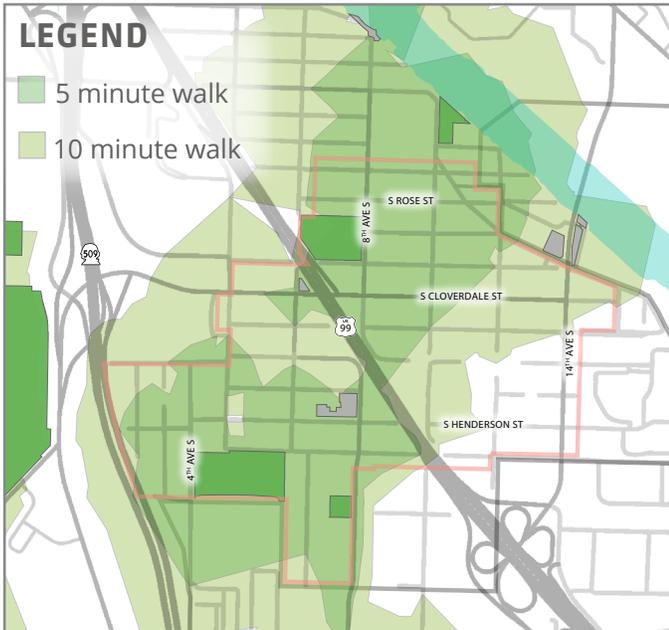
**NEEDS:** Input on design elements.

**TIMELINE:** Construction 2020-2021.

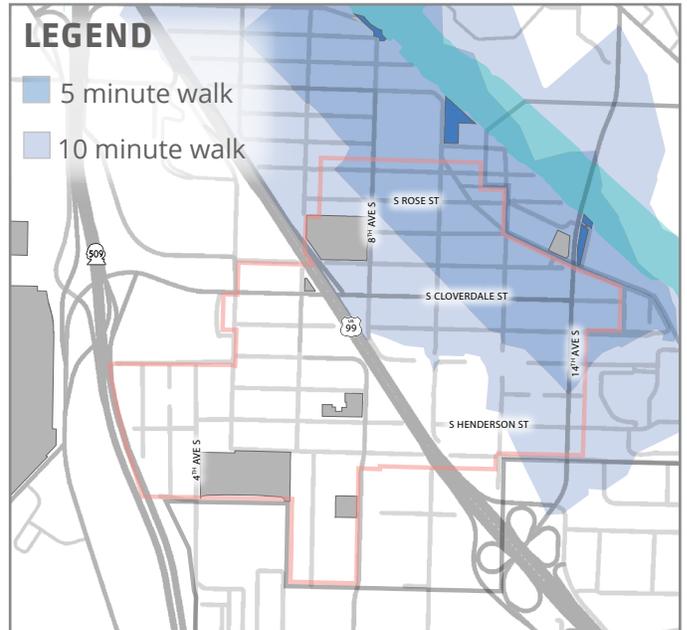
# Current Walking Distance To Different Opportunities



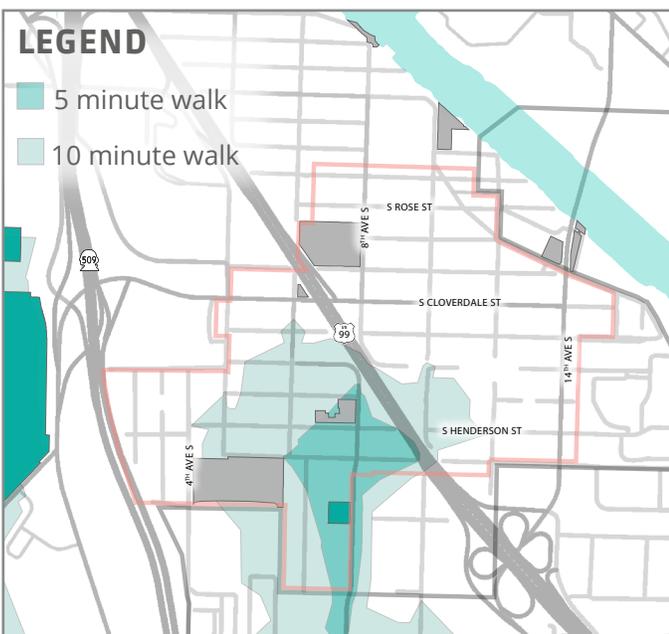
## GREEN SPACE



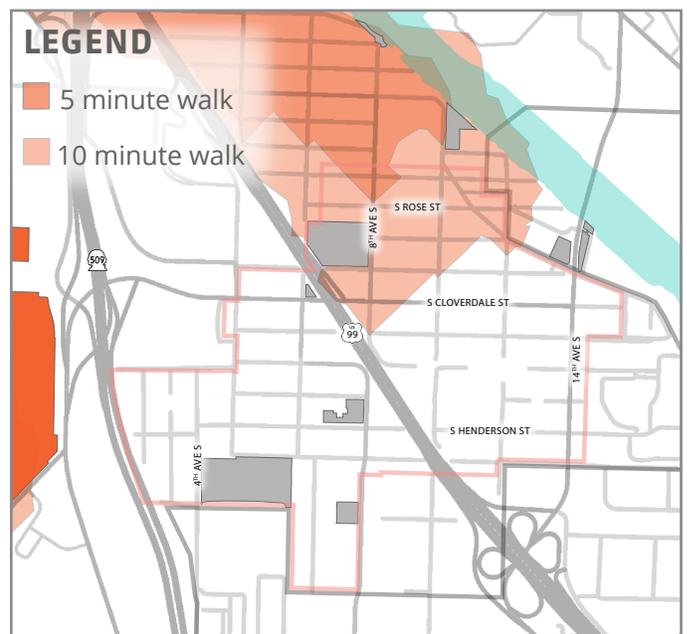
## WATER ACCESS



## NATURAL AREA

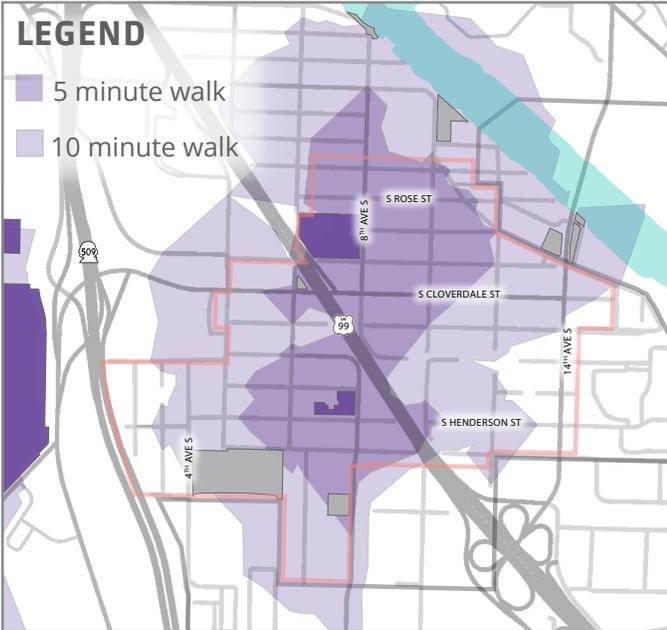


## TRAILS

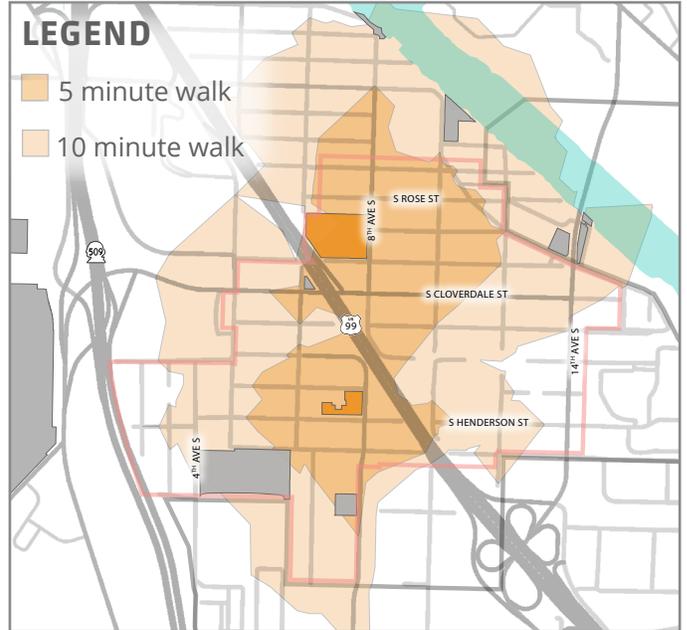




## PLAYGROUND



## SPORTS FACILITY



## URBAN AGRICULTURE

