ALICE BALL PARK
SEATTLE WASHINGTON
Completed 2019

Alice Ball Park illustrates what can be accomplished with creative problem solving and collaboration with the community and public agencies.

Located along one of north Seattle’s primary arterials, this landbanked park site is directly adjacent to the Greenwood Branch of the Seattle Public Library. The project site area doubled from what was initially planned through a late purchase of adjacent property, while the park budget remained the same. The scope was to fully design the whole site concept but build the original park on the parcel closest to the library, and leave the new parcel as a lawn until future funding became available.

Instead, an entire park across both lots was accomplished.

Throughout the design process, agencies, community partners, and the design team worked together to build a park that is more than a park by:

**RECOGNIZING OPPORTUNITIES**
The library entry plaza remodel was removing beautiful stone boulders. When asked, the library generously donated them to the park, which allowed the two civic facilities to share a common design language.

Buildings were being demolished on this sloping site, so instead of removing all walls, some were repurposed for site retaining walls.

**ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**
The design of the park stemmed directly from understanding what the community most valued, which is versatile open place to come together and build goodwill. Working with the community through several workshops and open houses helped focus the vision for the park, finding the best value for those that would frequent the new shared amenity and bringing the public along in the design vision.

**FOSTERING COLLABORATION**
The Seattle Department of Transportation funded design and construction of a raised crosswalk to the library with a supergraphic of a book unfolding and morphing into leaves, a design that further unites the two civic facilities and expresses the etymology of the word “book,” which is related to beech trees, the street tree of Greenwood Avenue.

SDOT allowed the sidewalk to be on the park property to give the street trees more room and combine park and street circulation into one unified pathway, an idea that came out of discussions with the Seattle Design Commission.