

McKinley Overlook

The McKinley Overlook at East 32nd Street is one of the key community-identified projects in the McKinley Neighborhood Plan, a guiding document that outlines community-identified projects, ideas, and actions to enhance and strengthen the neighborhood. The City of Tacoma Neighborhood Planning Program, McKinley neighborhood, businesses, and local organizations worked together to create the Plan. The Plan was developed through a process of co-creation with neighbors throughout 2022 and is informed by responses from surveys, community groups, and public meetings and events. After more than a year of community engagement, the Plan was fully adopted on March 21st, 2023.

McKinley Overlook Park is one of the first projects identified by the Plan to be implemented. It activates an undeveloped viewpoint by providing useable, public green space with a focus on non-motorized transportation and pedestrian accessibility. Public safety is supported by the implementation of a roadway diet and pedestrian-scale lighting. Prior to construction, the City did a Public Life study to observe how people stayed in and moved through the space. A repeat study is planned for Summer 2025 to compare findings before and after construction of the park.

The park was able to be implemented quickly by identifying the most elements that would make the most impact, while still affordable and efficiently. The project was funded via the Open Space Fund, Public Works General Funds, and the McKinley Streetscape Project. Public Works also applied for and received a Complete Streets Grant, which allowed for the inclusion of permanent irrigation and illumination at the park.

This project showcases what is possible through meaningful collaboration between residents, City departments, partner agencies, and elected leaders, leading to rapid, responsive implementation.

To be involved or track implementation of the Plan's recommendation, visit [***https://www.cityoftacoma.org/capital-projects/McKinley-Overlook***](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/capital-projects/McKinley-Overlook)

