

**UPCC NEWSLETTER  
WINTER 2024 EDITION**

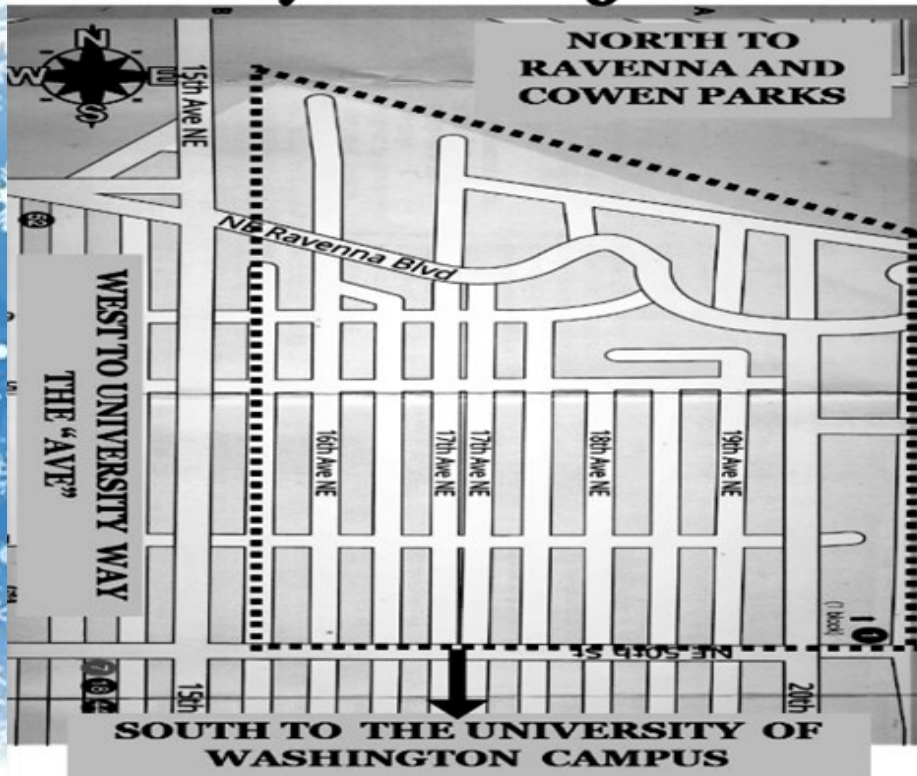


**Don't forget: Candy Cane Lane  
in our neighborhood!**



**Don't forget: Greet  
Everyone you meet!**

**University Park Neighborhood**



**UPCC BOARD MEMBERS 2022-2024**

Ray Kraft - Treasurer and Website Manager  
Aileen Langhans - Secretary and Newsletter Editor  
Kent Wills - UPCC representative in UDCC and CUCAC  
Mary Louis  
Dave Rodgers

???

**Insert your name here?**

**Please apply—**

**no prerequisites, except love for our neighborhood!**



# 2025 will mark the 50th year of University Park Community Club What lies ahead?

## HOW SHOULD WE CELEBRATE THIS SPECIAL MILESTONE?

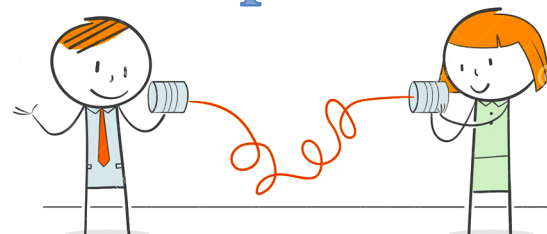


- ◆ Restore our organization's commitment to an Annual Membership Meeting (including an election)
- ◆ Honor our older homes by displaying a yard sign with years they were built
- ◆ Having an annual picnic, perhaps combined with the mandatory annual meeting and election.
- ◆ Block parties, especially Night Out Against Crime.
- ◆ Have a garden decorating contest?
- ◆ GOAL: Make our neighborhood the safest and friendliest pedestrian community in Seattle.
- ◆ This is NOT the UW's Party Neighborhood!
- ◆ Revitalize our website and newsletter?
- ◆ Meet and greet opportunities?

## Have we lost contact with you? Please update your contact information; and invite your neighbors to join!

- ◆ Are you missing our meetings?
- ◆ Are you not receiving our email updates?
- ◆ Have you not received our Newsletter in a long time (I must apologize that I have NOT published a newsletter in a long while.)?
- ◆ Have you visited our website recently?
- ◆ Have you introduced new neighbors to our Community Club?
- ◆ Do you need copies of our University Park booklet to hand out to them or other interested neighbors?
- ◆ Do you know how to contact us if you need to change your contact information or to become more active?
- ◆ Are you interested in becoming a board member?

**Let's keep in touch!**



# Not Quite in Our Neighborhood...

## SPINNAKER CHOCOLATES

- ◆ We're "bean-to-bar" chocolate makers which just means that we start with cocoa beans and process them all the way through to finished chocolate bars. We started making chocolate as a hobby and after years of meticulous experimentation, decided to turn our craft into a business.
- ◆ We make chocolate from different origins all over the world. Our approach is a lot like wine or coffee where each origin has a unique and interesting flavor.
- ◆ We're award-winning craft chocolate makers; we won 20 awards last year.
- ◆ We care tremendously about flavor, which is why we come highly recommended by all of our customers including successful tastemakers like chefs, wine makers, and coffee roasters.
- ◆ We're dedicated to using sustainable ingredients and reducing waste. As 1% For the Planet members, we donate 1% of our yearly revenue toward cleaning up ocean debris.
- ◆ We test all of our chocolate to make sure it's Cadmium and Lead safe.



SPINNAKER  
chocolate

3416 NE 55th St  
Seattle, WA 98105

## Tour our factory and become a MEMBER!

Sign up for a tour of our chocolate-making factory!  
You'll see our entire process  
for making chocolate starting with cocoa beans and  
ending with finished chocolate bars—  
complete with free samples!

## UNIVERSITY DISTRICT YMCA NEEDS YOUR (OUR) HELP!

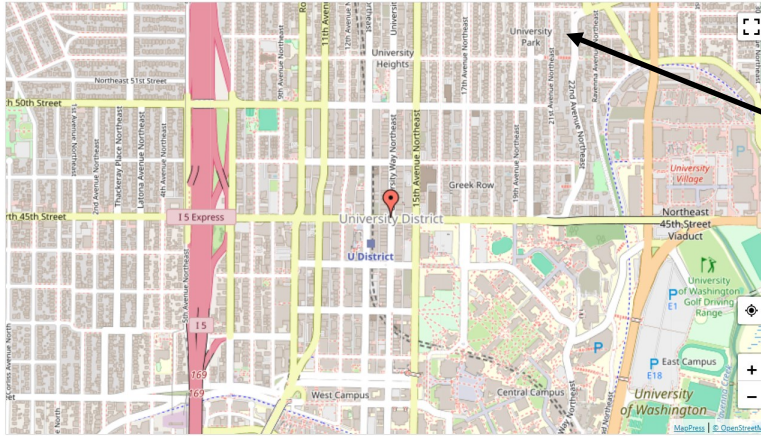
Over the years since the U District was UpZoned, in spite of repeated requests from UPCC, the City of Seattle, the University of Washington, the UDP, and the UDCC have been in denial regarding the local YMCA—its needs to be expanded and updated, its focal point for encouraging families to move in, and its past contributions to local residents. Even though the YMCA was given a must-needed rezone at that time for its ambitious plans, no efforts have been made beyond that point. I was unable to obtain any plans, even outline sketches, or a definite commitment to including pools. They do need to still acquire several lots to the north of them, so I am not sure about their financial situation or their efforts to start a major Fund Raising Event.

If we wish to remain a family neighborhood on the northeast edge abutting the U District, the YMCA would be a terrific asset toward the fulfillment of the new OneSeattlePlan. This plan proposes an increase in density within our neighborhood, up to four-plexes, in order to encourage families to move in, especially low-income families, intergenerational families, and larger families who seek a more permanent community in which to raise the children and care for their elderly.

Let's show our support!



# The Past reveals the present, but does it dictate the future?

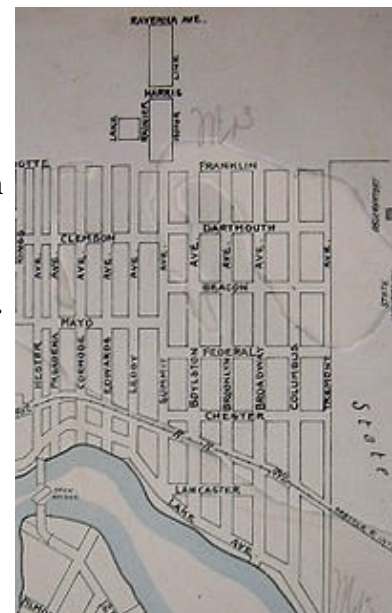


Here we are!

***“The University District (sometimes known as the U District) is a group of neighborhoods in Seattle named after the main campus of the University of Washington (UW). The University of Washington moved in two years after the area was seized by Seattle, when much of it was still clear cut forest or stump farms. The neighborhood district grew alongside the institution to resemble a miniature version of major American cities.”*** (Source: <https://www.mapofseattle.com>) (red emphases are mine.)

## DID YOU KNOW....?

- ◆ As a result of a contest held by the University Commercial Club in 1919, 14th Avenue (by then already known as "The Avenue" or "The Ave") was renamed University Way, and the neighborhood was renamed the University District. An alternative proposal was to rename the area "UniverCity," in recognition of the urban feel of the district and the major commercial presence along its main streets. (Source: Wikipedia)
- ◆ Brooklyn Ave was once called Broadway the developer James Moore (1861-1929)
- ◆ The University District (commonly the U District) is a neighborhood and a major district in central northeastern Seattle, Washington, **comprising several distinct neighborhoods.** (Wikimedia)
- ◆ The present University of Washington campus was laid out as the Brooklyn Addition. This land was owned by real estate developer James A. Moore, his wife, and the Clise Investment Company and included much of the original Brownfield homestead. This central area was called Brooklyn, which gave the current Brooklyn Avenue in the neighborhood its name.
- ◆ The old neighborhood name "Brooklyn" began to fade around this time. Electric trolley tracks had been laid up Columbus Avenue (later known as 14th Avenue, and later still University Way) either in 1891 or 1892, and the neighborhood soon began to be called "University Station" after the heated waiting house at the corner of what is now NE 42nd Street.



1893 map of recently platted Brooklyn

SO, ask yourself, “How should the University Park Neighborhood fit into the ever evolving University District and still remain a family community?” We need to retain our distinct and unique character, while remaining a welcoming respite to all residents and visitors from the cacophony of the U District.

# The OneSeattlePlan

## How it could be an opportunity for University Park Neighborhood



### NOTE:

- ★ University Park is NOT in the University Community, according to the City!
- ★ The Comprehensive Plan 2035 created the Transition Zone to protect our neighborhood against the density increases in the District.
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### WHAT TO SECURE AND RESIST:

- ◆ The transition zone: There are whispers that the City wants to get rid of this protection buffer.
- ◆ The character of our neighborhood: how will standardized designs adapt to our uniqueness?
- ◆ Our independence from the University of Washington. NOTE: The U District's upzone is apparently not final; there is an addendum to the One Seattle Plan that the city "might propose additional zoning changes as part of a future phase of our Zoning Update". What will that do to the integrity of our residential neighborhood?
- ◆ The need for amenities to encourage families to become our neighbors: YMCA, schools, safe parks, gardens, yards, etc.
- ◆ Pedestrian-friendly features: inviting entrances to the streetscape, safe sidewalks, visibility, such as around corners, near appropriately-designed fencing; clearly defined curb cuts for driveways, etc.
- ◆ Prevention: The displacement of existing families to the advantage of speculators.
- ◆ Prevention of incompatible housing by requiring that developers and speculators meet with the neighborhood during the early stages of planning, long before the cement is poured. This includes DADUs and major additions. We need the option of creating very general design concepts

### WHAT TO DEMAND:

1. Insist that the City comply with its empty promises and goals: providing neighborhood housing for displaced families, especially low-income families, displaced families, intergenerational families, large families, and families with disabilities.
2. University Park should be protected from the onslaught of development and influence by the neighboring UW. This includes the negative and permanent impact of the transient student population.
3. That the City recognize the need for more permanent residents if a neighborhood can truly have an identity and create a true sense of community—something unattainable if its population is transient in nature.

### WHAT TO CAUTIOUSLY CELEBRATE!

1. Apparently, the City views our neighborhood as fairly dense already and they don't anticipate any major changes here for a long time. Also, our hills present a challenge.
2. No lots in our neighborhood are expected to provide enough square footage for more than duplexes; six-plexes will be in areas around the light rail stations.
3. **THEREFORE: It is up to us as a true community to rally together in solid support of our unique and vibrant neighborhood!**

**The future is ours to create and protect.**

# Let us talk about the birds and the bees and the flowers and the trees...



Photo by Conner Neander, Allison Lamb, Misty Nixon, and Craig Newberry

## A Special Shout Out to Seattle's Parks and Recreation Department!

Although there is NO mention in the Seattle One Plan about the need to nurture and protect our non-human neighbors, the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department has just made a clear statement on this priority. Not only that, but they recently sponsored a Webinar titled, "Habitat at Your Home" with practical ways that everyone can use – no matter the size and location of your residence—an apartment, a cottage, etc. ... with a balcony, a small lot, or a gracious and elegant garden... or even a neighborhood P Patch. Each of us, from young to old, can support our non-human friends.

### SO WHAT CAN WE DO AS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES? ...

- ◆ Let's work within our University Park neighborhood to find practical and simple ways to show our love of nature.
- ◆ Let's make sure that the City Officials are no longer satisfied with discussing the Tree Canopy in the OneSeattlePlan, but broaden their approach to include all of nature.
- ◆ Let's teach our children how important local environmental issues are and how easily families can make a big difference. This includes safety and pedestrian-friendly acts.

### Here are some special resources to help you get started:

- ◆ Bats NW (Bat Habitat | Bats Northwest)
- ◆ Carnivore Spotter (Carnivore Spotter)
- ◆ eBird (Explore - eBird)
- ◆ Habitat at Home Program (Habitat at Home | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife)
- ◆ Seattle Public Utilities Natural Yard Care (My Lawn and Garden - Utilities | seattle.gov)
- ◆ King County Native Plant Guide (Northwest Native Plant Guide)
- ◆ National Wildlife Federation habitat program (Plant Native)
- ◆ Xerces Society (The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation)
- ◆ Bee City USA (Learn About Pollinator Conservation - Bee City USA)
- ◆ Migratory Bird Treaty (Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
- ◆ Journeys for Life - ICLEI (JOURNEYS for LIFE - ICLEI)
- ◆ WFZ Hello Pollinators (Hello Pollinators - Woodland Park Zoo Seattle WA)
- ◆ GSP Forest Steward Field Guide (Forest Steward Field Guide - Green Seattle Partnership)

Here is a link to the  
webinar that you  
can watch at your  
leisure:

[https://  
vimeo.com/1031263  
695](https://vimeo.com/1031263695)



## A message from UPCC Secretary pro tempore, Aileen M. Langhans

Upon chatting with a variety of residents in our neighborhood, I have discovered some common concerns and ideas:

- ◆ Protect the integrity of our neighborhood as a family neighborhood. NOTE: there can be no true sense of community unless residents feel they are part of that community as opposed to residents who see our community only as a place to party, sleep, and study. (The “Party Neighborhood” is SOUTH OF NE 50th)
- ◆ Discover ways in which we can support each other, introduce ourselves to new neighbors, and encourage new families to find homes here!
- ◆ Strive to become one of the cleanest, safest and most pedestrian-friendly neighborhood in Seattle!
- ◆ Let’s gather ideas to reactivate our board and our club.

**So, put your thinking cap on,  
so we can make 2025  
a new starting point  
as we focus on revitalizing our U Park.**



### THE OFFICIAL UPCC WEBSITE:

[www.upcc.Org](http://www.upcc.Org)

Please visit this site to learn more about our organization and the various issues we are currently addressing, as well as upcoming events.

The website also contains the following information:

- ◆ Our bylaws and membership information
- ◆ Our recent newsletters and flyers, plus upcoming events and other activities.
- ◆ "WELCOME TO UNIVERSITY PARK - Where things are and how stuff works." (PDF Version) This is an introductory booklet to our unique neighborhood. Be sure to share this valuable resource with your neighbors, especially those new to University Park.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**We are here  
to listen!**

Aileen M. Langhans, UPCC board secretary:  
[upark.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:upark.secretary@gmail.com)

For public safety issues and nuisance property concerns:  
Ray Kraft: [raykraft@gmail.com](mailto:raykraft@gmail.com)

**We are here  
to serve!**