



6 next steps: the future plan

The ground rules:

- 1) The existing planter basins need to remain and with about the same soil depth.
- 2) The trellis supports can remain and the walkway needs to remain for egress.
- 3) The freight elevator and its enclosure need to remain.

Options:

- 1) Replace the ornamental garden, as is, by reutilizing the small trees and shrubs that were salvageable and with about 14 to 17 new trees.
- 2) Consider new plant materials: primarily to create a “certified garden;” to create a landscape that will provide interest and usability year-round for all residents; and to provide some plants, such as herbs, that may be considered part of a community garden.
- 3) Do nothing for another 13 years and assume the situation couldn’t get any worse than it already is. (Hint: It *will* get worse.)

What do you mean by “certified garden?”

A wildlife habitat garden to attract birds, butterflies, and other neighborhood wildlife, as described on Metro’s [Backyard Habitat](#) page, by providing:

Diversity: Native plants with more diversity than just trees and shrubs.

Food: Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife.

Water: All animals need water to survive.

Cover: Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators.

Sustainable practices: Maintain garden in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthful and clean. Distinguish between shady and sunny areas.



So, now we need to sacrifice beauty to accommodate wildlife?

Beautiful examples exist, some within just a few blocks from the Harrison West. Perhaps the biggest difference is at the ground plane. Previously trees and shrubs were often just stuck in the ground and then surrounded by either dirt or bark mulch or some obligatory ground cover. With greater plant diversity, the ground plane can become as beautiful and vital as the ornamental plants.



South Waterfront Park features a beautiful, nearby garden made up of native and diverse plants.



These images, taken at different seasons—spring at left; early fall at right—are of The Pacific Wave, at the entrance to Forest Heights. The Wave provides varying colors for every season.

Click image to see full size.

Click images to see them larger.

Harrison West Condominium

Another preposterously quick turnaround from the Krochina/Bosch architectural design studio and bait shop “Leeches, our specialty,” with an epiphany moment from Janet Van Wess