

OVERLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND UPDATE



August 2006 Newsletter

Imagine an Urban Village in the Heart of Overlake

On May 5 and 6, close to 50 citizens, including people who live or work in the area, business and property owners, and other interested citizens, participated in an intensive design workshop focused on the Overlake shopping area. Participants worked using maps, photographs and in discussion groups to describe what is working in the Overlake area, what should be improved, and potential next steps. Sponsors included Microsoft Corp., Puget Sound Energy, Nintendo of America, Silver Cloud Inn, Milt's Barbeque, and the Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce.



Mayor Ives addresses participants Friday morning

The *Overlake Urban Center Concept Plan* is based on a synthesis of the concepts developed at the two-day workshop. Read on for a summary of nine main themes from the *Concept Plan* which will guide this update, as well as next steps and upcoming meetings.

v **Create a sense of place**

- Establish a unique image for Overlake that identifies the area as a cohesive neighborhood
- Communicate Overlake's unique image with entryway, signage and streetscape features that are coordinated across city limits
- Consider creating a focal community center/gathering place, in the area's core



Participants in the concept plan map exercise

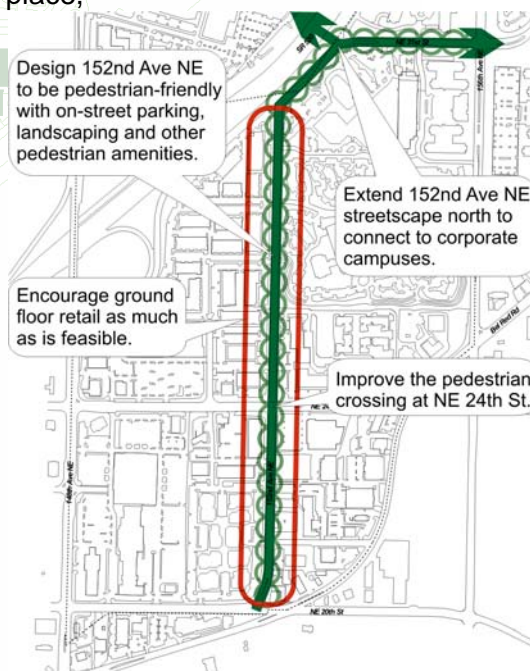
v **Create a place where people want to live**

Amenities, such as more neighborhood-oriented retail and services, parks and open spaces, and pedestrian-friendly streets are needed to make the area a desirable place to live.

v **Encourage a diverse mix of uses**

The Overlake shopping area should continue to include a diversity of land uses over time with a focus in the following areas:

- Northwest (near Safeway): Mix of commercial and residential uses as part of a coordinated development
- Northeast (Group Health area): Residential or hotel with park space and conservation of existing trees
- Southwest (Sears area): Larger retail and regional businesses
- Southeast (Silver Cloud area): Housing and lodging in addition to smaller scale retail and commercial



v **Make 152nd Avenue NE a core of the neighborhood**

- Provide on-street parking, landscaping and other amenities to make the street more pedestrian friendly
- Improvements should extend north to connect to corporate campuses
- Encourage ground floor retail along the street as much as is feasible
- Improve pedestrian crossing at NE 24th St.

v **Create a system of connected open spaces**

- Include a variety of green and open spaces connected by pedestrian-friendly landscaped streets and/or pedestrian pathways
- Two locations identified for potential larger park/open space improvements:
 - Somewhere on the Group Health site with adjacent active uses
 - In the vicinity of Sears, perhaps as part of a stormwater management system
- Connect existing trails
- Incorporate public art

v **Improve streetscapes**

- Improve the function and appearance of streets with landscaping, planting strips, wide sidewalks and other pedestrian amenities
- Coordinate with Bellevue to promote consistency across jurisdictions

v **Improve local street access and the pedestrian environment**

- Consider expanding the street grid in the southern portion of the shopping area to improve access for vehicles and pedestrians
- Consider a new east/west connector north of NE 24th St (perhaps carpool or transit-access only)

v **Accommodate regional through-traffic**

Maintain or improve the current level of regional through-traffic by:

- Improving the safety and function of the area's arterial streets
- Improving the safety and function of two key intersections – the Bel-Red Rd/ NE 24th St/ 156th Ave NE “triangle” and NE 24th St/ 152nd Ave NE

v **Support regional and local transit connections**

- Local and regional transit should be integrated
- Frequency of transit service should be maintained
- Alternative locations for light rail routes and stations were identified
- Consider the potential for fast service between destinations and good local access in evaluating alternative light rail transit routes

NEXT STEPS

- July to October 2006: City staff and consultants use the workshop results to develop alternatives for growth, transportation and other improvements, and implementation strategies. The alternatives will be evaluated for performance, feasibility, and public feedback as part of the plan update.
- September 14, 2006: Sound Transit Community Meeting on potential light rail alignments and station locations in Overlake and elsewhere in Redmond, 4:30 to 7:30 pm, Old Redmond School House Community Center, 16600 NE 80th Street, Downtown Redmond
- September/October 2006: Distribution of newsletter on alternatives and November open house
- November 2006: Open house to seek public feedback on alternatives
- November 2006 to March 2007: Develop and evaluate preferred alternative, and hold 2nd open house
- For more info or a copy of the Overlake Urban Center Concept Plan, contact Lori Peckol at 425/556-2411 or lpeckol@redmond.gov or Jayme Jonas at 425/556-2496 or jjonas@redmond.gov or visit www.redmond.gov/intheworks/overlake