



ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING • ENVIRONMENTAL • SURVEY



White Center Heights Park will receive an extreme makeover this summer as the entire community joins the action.

PROJECTS

STARBUCKS ULTIMATE PARK MAKEOVER

In what used to be a forest that was logged more than a hundred years ago, stands an underdeveloped park waiting to be reborn on the south end of Seattle. [White Center Heights Park](#) was home to the area's first sawmill, built in 1888 adjacent to the overgrown, one-and-a-half acre pond on the site. Thanks to the generosity of Starbucks Coffee Company this historic five-and-a-half-acre park is scheduled for a makeover. Starbucks Neighborhood Parks Program recently endowed [King County Parks](#) with a \$550,000 gift to fund the Ultimate Park Makeover of White Center Heights Park. The park-in-a-week transformation will come with the help of residents, community groups, King County staff, and hundreds of Starbucks partners (employees).

The idea has gained a lot of traction among the neighborhood's ethnically diverse population where one-third of all residents speak a language other than English, representing Vietnam, Cambodia, Samoa, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea, Russia, Bosnia, and the Ukraine. Already, two public meetings in the community have elicited hundreds of attendees armed with creative ideas for what they hope their park could become.

While Otak has been involved as an advisor in sustainability and planning, major stakeholders include the [White Center Community Development Association](#); King County's [Green Building Program](#); the [Southwest Boys & Girls Club](#); and the adjacent [Greenbridge](#) housing community, which is one of King County's original low impact development (LID) demonstration projects. Based on input from White Center residents, students from the University of Washington's [landscape architecture design/build program](#) are designing several park plan options that will be vetted in the community before construction begins.

If you'd like to join the effort, roll up your sleeves and contact the [White Center Community Development Association](#). If you have a neighborhood park in need of attention, [Starbucks Neighborhood Park Program](#) will provide up to \$15,000 to 30 grassroots volunteer organizations this year to improve local parks. To learn more about their grants program, go to [starbuckslovesparks.com](#). To read an article that recently ran in the West Seattle Herald about this project [click here](#). To view a successful park makeover project, see the 2006 first-ever Starbucks Ultimate Park Makeover of [Seattle's Powell Barnett Park](#). For Otak's help on your park project [email us](#).

PEOPLE

SUSTAINABILITY MEETS ECONOMY IN THE SOUTHWEST

Like many other metropolitan areas, the Phoenix/Tempe region is trying to "find ways to sustain growth into the foreseeable future, without overwhelming the resources we have at our disposal - air, water, open space and desert vistas." [Valley Forward](#) is a public interest group in the region that advocates for a balance between economic development and environmental quality and livability. Two of Otak's Tempe staff members are participating in the efforts.



[Byron Dixon](#), a senior project manager, is a volunteer for Valley Forward's fourth annual [Livability Summit](#). The event will bring together business, political leadership, and students on April 27th with the spotlight on

climate change - causes, effects, solutions, what business/industry is doing, and challenges for a sustainable future.



[Brad Bielenberg](#), a senior landscape architect, is a member of the land use/open space committee that advocates a balance between economic development and environmental quality through smart growth strategies. Projects and issues focus on open space and connectivity as part of a regional trails system, desert preservation, infill development, and pedestrian-oriented design, all toward the ultimate goal of building more livable communities.



The fragile desert environment near Otak's Tempe office

READING

INSIGHTS INTO SITE DEVELOPMENT



Otak's Development Services department publishes a quarterly newsletter called *Insite* that features articles on Oregon and Washington land use news. Past issues have included the Oregon and Washington 2006 elections, current trends in the real estate market, updates on Measure 37 and more! Otak distributes it to hundreds of clients and affiliates interested in site development issues. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please email the editor, [Leslie McClain](#), with your postal address, or to receive an electronic copy, request to be added to the electronic distribution list.



KING COUNTY, WA, PLANS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

One of the most progressive jurisdictions in the country has introduced a plan to cut greenhouse gas pollution by 80 percent below current levels by 2050 and make its communities resilient to expected loss in drinking water supply, more frequent floods, and other impacts due to global warming. [Read the plan.](#)

RESOURCES

GREEN PEOPLE MEET ALL OVER THE WORLD



[GreenDrinks](#) is a self-organizing international network of people involved or interested in breaking into environmental fields. Every month people meet up for "drinks" at informal sessions. Recent Seattle meetings have been offered at venues such as the new Sculpture Park, the Seattle Aquarium, and the Woodland Park Zoo. GreenDrinks organizations meet monthly in the following states where Otak has offices: Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

GreenDrinks Logo for Columbus, OH

WHAT MAKES IT GREEN?

SUSTAINABLE TEXTILES

Fabrics that are used as upholstery on furniture, in conference rooms, benches, carpets, draperies, window shades, table, kitchen or bed linens, wall panels, wall coverings, and many other places can be as green as your building. They can be made of natural materials such as organic cotton, hemp, wools and linen, bamboo or cork, and colored with non-toxic vegetable dyes. Some are made from polyesters and other synthetics made from post-consumer recycled waste materials with no harmful ingredients and environmentally friendly manufacturing processes. The fabrics could be covering pillows and cushions that are stuffed with natural latex, down, or wool. The "greenest" textiles are not only non-toxic while being produced and used, but when they've reached the end of their application are reusable in another form, recyclable or compostable. In the Puget Sound area, [One Earth One Design](#) and [Greener Lifestyles](#) offer fabrics, furnishings, and custom designs in all-sustainable materials. For other regions, check

online catalogues such as [Treehugger's](#) directory of eco-fabrics, [Green Sage](#) or the Australian manufacturer of eco-friendly fabrics, [Sustainable Living Fabrics](#). Browse the ecolabels from the [European Union](#) or search [European textiles](#). [MBDC](#) has certified several textiles to its Cradle-to-Cradle program that endorses products made with materials that are perpetually circulated in closed-loop manufacturing processes.



Custom cushions and pillows made by Greener Lifestyles of Seattle with all natural latex pillows and non-toxic, all natural fiber covers colored with non-toxic vegetable dyes.

NEWS

[WHAT'S NEWSWORTHY @ OTAK](#)

THE GREEN 50

People and their companies with innovative 'green' ideas are presented [here](#) in a slide show. [Vote](#) for your favorite.

RESIDENTIAL GREEN BUILDING CONFERENCE IN EVERETT, WA



Snohomish County, home to Everett, WA, is greening its shores this month to host our region's largest residential green building conference and expo with more than 50 exhibitors. The [2007 Built Green Conference & Expo](#) will be held at the Everett Events Center on Tuesday, March 13. Otak is sponsoring keynote speaker [Hunter Lovins](#), an internationally renowned environmental author and speaker. A tour of sites employing low impact development strategies is planned for Wednesday, March 14. For a registration form [click here](#).

DECONSTRUCTION BY THE BEACH

[Going Green at the Beach](#) might become the greenest home in Washington as it plans to certify to five different green rating programs at its expected completion in August. The first step in the process was to deal with the existing structure on the site: an old house. Dave Bennink, owner of [Re-Use Consulting](#) brought in the machines, and over three days saved more than 80 percent of the materials from going to the landfill. Check out photos and brief description of the process [here](#). For more information on deconstruction, visit the RE-USE website (www.reuseconsulting.com) or call (360) 201-6977, or visit the [Building Materials Reuse Association website](#). Otak is a sponsor of and sustainability advisor to the Going Green at the Beach project. In addition, Otak landscape designer [Tom Early](#) is creating a sustainable landscape plan to enhance the site's natural features and working with Szophia Pasztor of Frog on a Log Landscapes for implementation.



Re-Use Consulting removes blow-in insulation from the attic as part of deconstruction process



Deconstructed boards carefully laid aside for later reuse.

Ozone Web
Developer
[Dana Norwood](#)

Ozone Newsletter Designer
[Roy Arauz](#)

Ozone Newsletter Editor
[Robin Rogers](#)

FROM THE EDITOR

NATURALIZING YOUR OWN BACKYARD

[Brenda Elder](#), our GIS whiz in Otak's Kirkland office, and her husband have spent many hours volunteering at a nature preserve near their home not too far from Seattle. They've lived in Lake Forest Park for about nine years and have been involved with the [Lake Forest Park Stewardship Foundation](#) since they discovered it.

Due in part to the time and effort that Brenda and other residents have contributed over the years to naturalize their neighborhoods, Lake Forest Park has achieved Community Wildlife Habitat status from the National Wildlife Federation. "We are pretty proud of this designation," Brenda says. Lake Forest Park is only the third community in Washington State and the 21st in the nation to achieve such a designation. To achieve the designation, any sized community wildlife habitat:

- Requires little or no pesticides, fertilizers, and excess watering
- Keeps water and air resources clean
- Is healthier for people and wildlife
- Can beautify our urban areas and give residents pride in their neighborhoods

"On an [aerial map](#), Lake Forest Park is a wedge of forest cover surrounded by urban sprawl," says Gretchen Muller of the National Wildlife Federation. "They already had a deep conservation ethic and were restoring salmon habitat." Lush second-growth conifers are a distinct feature all around this town that incorporates an intricate network of streams and wetlands that flow into Lake Washington. For full article [click here](#).



Roger and Connie Olstad, walking Kobi, are among the many volunteers helping restore wetlands in the new Grace Cole Nature Park, one of five certified Community Wildlife Habitats in Lake Forest Park.

Want to certify a wildlife-friendly space in your yard, school, or anywhere in your community as wildlife habitat? For more info [click here](#). To see a few examples of Otak's park projects, visit our [website](#), or if you have questions about how we can help with a park project [email us](#). In the meantime, you can check out some of the beautiful parks and communities in North America:

List of certified [Community Wildlife Habitats](#) across the US

[Municipal Parks](#) in the US

[US National Parks](#)

US National Parks [Volunteer Program](#)

[Provincial Parks in Canada](#)

Happy naturing!

[Robin Rogers](#)

Otak is a member of:



PARTING SHOT by Mackenzie Young



Temple of Athena, Delphi, Greece