

Program Elements

1. Community Gathering Space
2. Celebrated Entrance
3. Green Roof Shelter
4. Mosaic Water Wall
5. Community Garden
6. Picnic Areas with Barbecue grills
7. Open Playfield
8. Walking Loop
9. Berm Amphitheatre
10. Interpretive Learning Trail
11. Art Installations
12. Woodland Playground
13. Native Vegetation Garden
14. Wetland Enhancement
15. Boardwalks
16. Wetland Viewing Platform

Park Identity

This design produces a new identity for White Center Heights Park. It changes from an overgrown, invasive lawn space with no amenities, to a rich and vibrant sanctuary for the community and nature. Several features within the design create special moments for all visitors. These include beautiful mosaic water-walls, wetland boardwalks, an intricate community shelter and a landscape rich with textures and diversity.

Public Safety

Park security is greatly reduced through opening up site lines into the space. Public safety is very important to the success of this project. There are numerous entrances and exits to the park, which allow for multiple options of when arriving and leaving. Vegetation choices and thinning of existing trees increase the visibility in and out of the park. With the eyes from the streets and close neighbors vandalism is greatly reduced and predators flee.

Sustainability

All elements within this design including built structures and natural areas are centered around sustainability. For paths, crushed stones are used instead of concrete or asphalt. The community gathering space is surfaced with eco-pavers a recycled material. The Woodland playground uses boulders as one of the main play features. Removing invasives from wetland areas and the continued enhancement of the wetlands improves their health year by year. Green buildings and features function perfectly while serving as an impetus for educating the community and involving them in sustainable behavior.

Multicultural Uses & Expressions

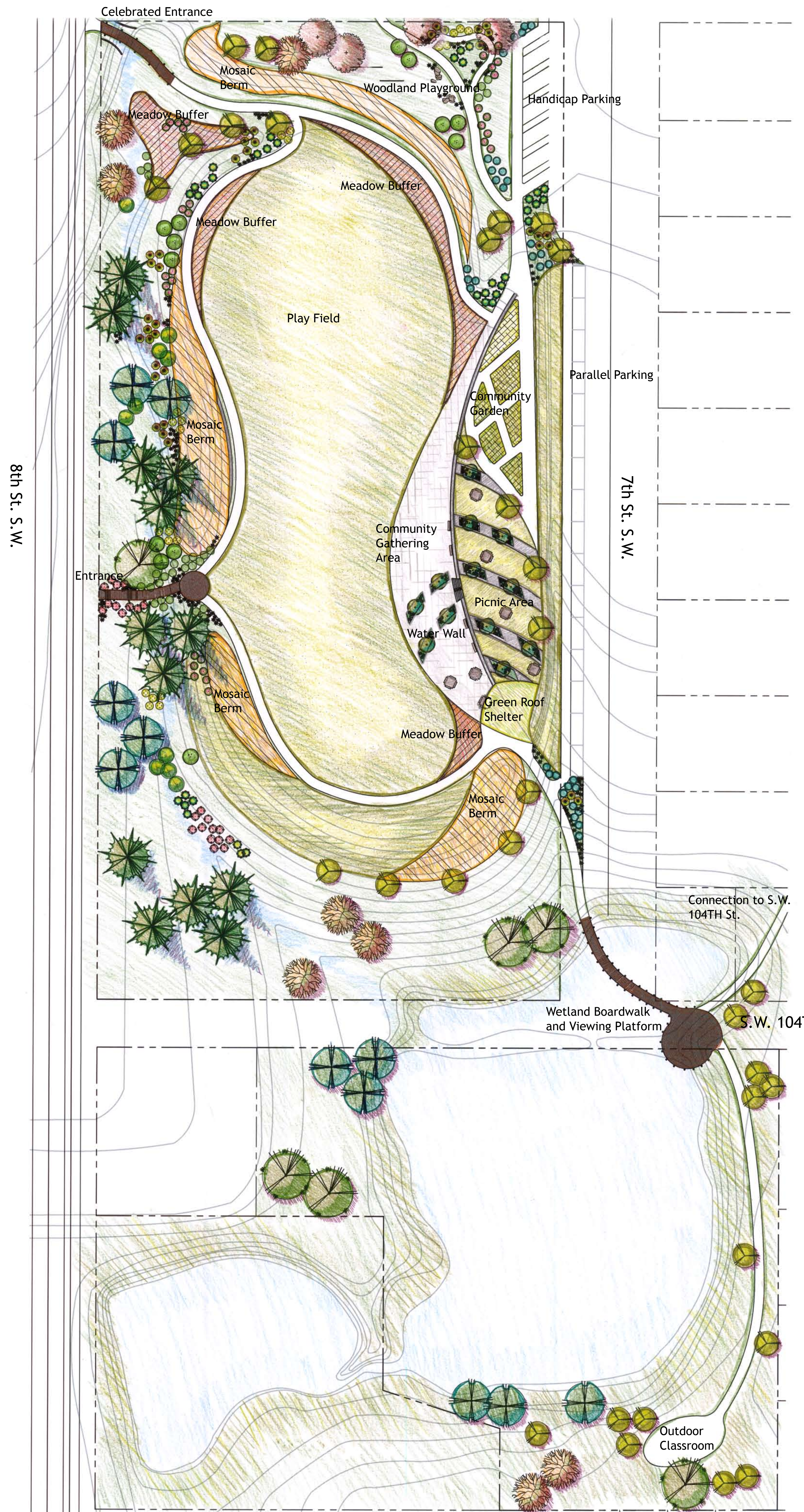
White Center is comprised of dozens of different ethnic communities. These groups are what make this area so unique and special. White Center Heights Park is a place where cultures meet, as neighbors come together.

Environmental Learning

With White Center Heights Elementary School across the street, the park allows for unique educational experiences. Teachers use provided curriculum to instruct students on the importance of wetlands and the vital functions they serve for urban living. Interpretive signage relays the same message to everyday park users.

Community Involvement

The majority of construction on this site will be completed by volunteers from Starbucks Corp., and the White Center community. Ongoing phases involve a lot of community participation for construction and some upkeep. Having community involvement will help the park remain a landmark for the neighborhood.



[park master plan]

Convergence: Connecting Community and Ecology

White Center Heights Park

