

UPDATING AN ICON
The renovation of Westlake Park balances the preservation of identity, modern infrastructure, human experience, and Pacific Northwest ecology.



Park improvement legend

1. The fountain is removed
2. The existing Coast Salish basket weave pattern is maintained. Uneven pavers are leveled and restored
3. Carved granite from the arch is salvaged and incorporated into the park
4. Portions of the granite curb, surrounding the fountain, are preserved
5. The existing podium is modified for ADA accessibility, to maintain history of gatherings, free speech and events
6. Electrical updates are made for improved site lighting and seasonal events
7. Two new power pedestals for food trucks and events are added
8. Conditions for the existing trees are improved to increase longevity and address uneven pavement
9. New landscaping and irrigation are added to enhance the gathering plaza and park
10. Crash rated bollards and deterrents are added around the perimeter of the park for pedestrian safety
11. Existing play area remains

SITE PLAN
Maintaining and improving the iconic paving was integral to the design. Other changes included upgraded infrastructure and improved safety and functionality.





RECONNECTING TO THE CITY
The redesign accommodates a variety of events, gatherings, and user group types, and opens up the park to ensure all feel welcome.

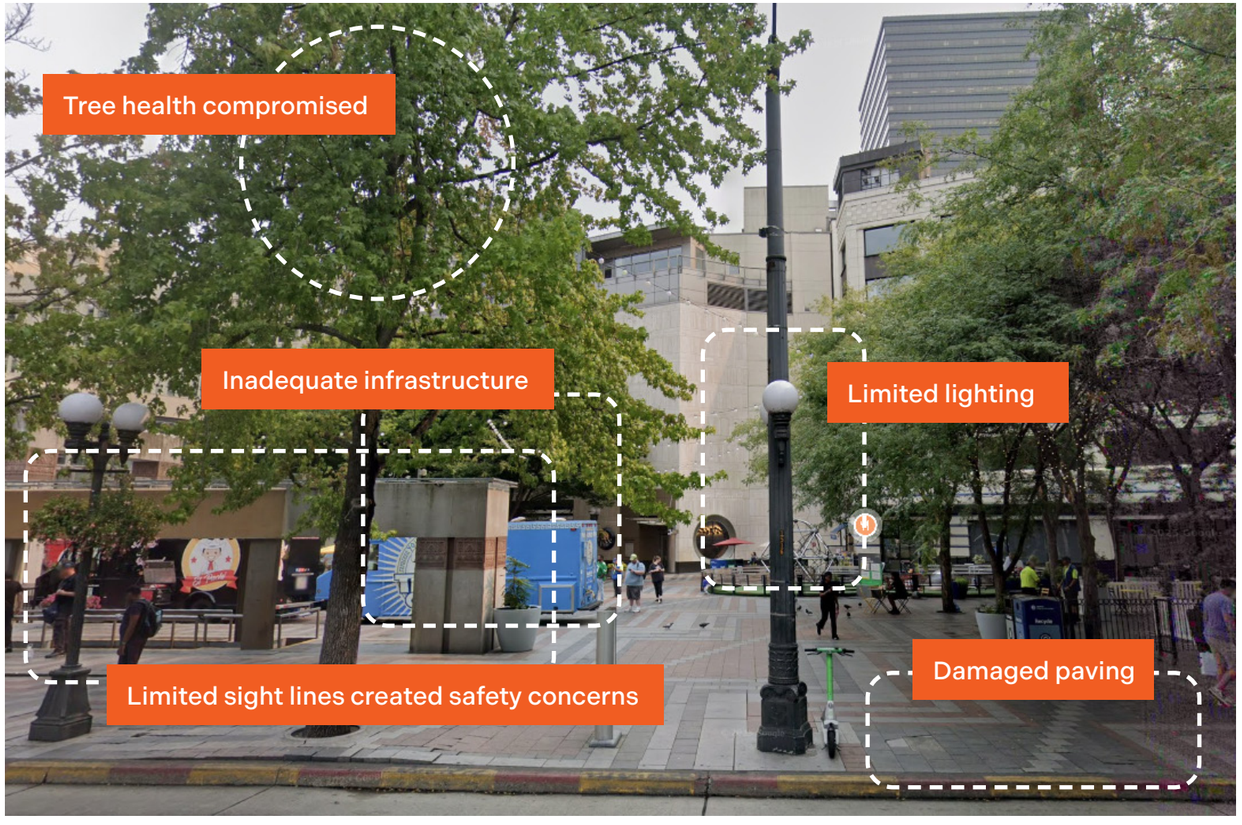
NEW NATIVE ECOLOGY
The site formerly integrated hardscape elements that had become defunct and the source of myriad issues. New planters integrate historic elements and native vegetation.



EVERYDAY LIFE
The original Westlake planters are reincorporated onto the site to create a rhythmic and colorful cadence, separating pass-through foot traffic from those who linger.



CONDENSED TIMELINE
Completed in time for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the renovation timeline was an impressive 18 months from kick-off to ribbon cutting. Close team collaboration was key.



BEFORE



AFTER

BEFORE + AFTER
A variety of safety, security, and functionality issues necessitated the renovation. The result is a refreshed and reinvigorated central ‘living room’ for Seattle.



GREENING THE CITY
Native plants were selected to provide seasonal interest and include lupine, columbine, yarrow, monkey flower, serviceberry, shore pine, and evergreen huckleberry.

BENEATH THE CANOPY
Site trees were suffering and buckling the pavers. Working with arborists, 34 of the 35 trees were saved, and conditions were improved for the trees as well as visitors.



A SKATEBOARDING LEGACY
During the design process, the team learned about the significance of the park to the skateboarding community. The design maintains and enhances beloved skateable elements.



NOD TO THE PAST
Original park elements were salvaged and reincorporated into the new design.



CENTER OF URBAN LIFE
Located in Seattle's central business district, Westlake Park has been at the heart of civic life since its creation in 1988. Now, it's refreshed for today's modern uses.



AN URBAN PARK
More plaza than park, the refreshed Westlake Park retains one-of-a-kind features like the paving while removing outdated infrastructure and safety hazards.



PRESERVING THE LEGACY
Westlake Park's signature basket-weave paving pattern has been repaired and improved, ensuring it will continue to live on for decades.