Reimagining Seattle Streets:
Green Infrastructure Demonstration Gardens for 34th Ave W
Resource Conservation Goals for Parking Strips

**WATER**
- handling stormwater quality and quantity on site
- harvest and conservation of potable water + stormwater

**EARTH**
- waste reduction through composting and herbicide reduction
- enhance habitat, urban forest cover and reduce use of pesticides

**AIR + CLIMATE**
- encourage walking, use of transit and bikes

**COMMUNITY**
- promote neighborhood interactions with art, markers, enhanced safety and community involvement
Parameters for Designs

EASY (individual homeowner) _
- within the parking strip
- no major changes to paving/infrastructure
- no changes to curb

MODERATE (neighborhood/city cooperation) _
- changes to curb/row - curb cuts, curb extension (?)
- some permitting may be necessary

INVOLVED (city sponsorship) _
- master plan - rework whole street in a systematic manner
- changes to the transportation system
- city heavily involved or leading

Note: These apply specifically to CURBED RESIDENTIAL. Adapt to other areas as appropriate.
Prototype Study Areas

- Business District
- Curbless Residential + Park
- Curbed Residential
- Institutional
Business District

34th St.
from W. Thurman St. to W. Emerson St.

McGraw St.
from 32nd to 34th
BUSINESS DISTRICT NORTH  Business Area (looking north)

**easy intervention**  swales, intersection markers, vegetation- improvements
Thriftway Store Parking

Immediate beautification with modular concrete planters of short sunflowers or Chinese Brake Fern to extract pollutants, or even rows of Lupine.
involved intervention

To develop the site to expose the natural process for education + pleasure. Imagine a Great Blue Heron flies in to have frogs for a snack when street musicians are playing music under a tree.
Village Gateway

Multi-utility metal screen: framing shop-entries, screening parking-lot + integrating combined news-stands + community bulletin board.
History Walk - Village
Widening the sidewalk w/ series of pergolas w/ Magnolia history-markers; Interaction circles; bus stop w/ solar panelled roof; community kiosk; detention pond
involved intervention

Greening the Village Gateway
Corner bulb-outs slow traffic and provide for slowing + filtering of stormwater; runnels direct overflow to cisterns at corner + intersection; solar panels power cistern pump to irrigate corner plantings
Curbless Residential+Park

Ballard Locks to 34th and Gilman Way

Clise & 32nd to Elliott Bay
easy intervention

Rapid Raingarden
Water enters the site where it is cleaned by vegetation and infiltrated into the amended soil; only requires a site into which water could be directed; provides habitat with native vegetation.
A small path leading from the street into the Live End terminates at the ravine or park’s edge where an art piece allows visitors to listen more closely to what’s happening in the park....
When it rains, the drops will run around the fish, and in this way, the fish will look like they are going against the current...

Residents are welcome to use all kinds of material to make blue fish, which mark the historic creek path and symbolize the salmon.
Daylighting the Stream

Wolfe Creek will be daylighted out of the stormdrain; water can be cleaned + infiltrated into the land; creating better habitat by having higher quality water; people can easily access Wolfe Creek Beach again.
Curbed Residential

34th from W. Elmore to W. Thurman

W. Emerson to W. Barrett
Easy Street
Implementation by single home owner; designs focus on lot-scale, and involve little or no permitting.
Go Native!

Soil acts as sponge for rainwater; vegetation attracts hummingbirds; native vegetation well-suited for wet/dry conditions; path allows easy access.
Resource Gardens

Based on the cooperation b/w neighbors; provides composting facilities + planting areas for neighbors to share (possibilities: vegetable patch, perennial garden, composting fence, seating plaza...)
River of Trees
Creation of a shallow meandering swale with amended soil; plants are moisture + drought tolerant; trees provide visual interest + urban canopy
CURBED RESIDENTIAL

**easy intervention**

**Flow – Berm + Butterfly Garden**

Movement of water + people through the urban landscape; reveal natural drainage + improve water quality; create healthy ecosystem habitat; inspire surrounding community involvement + adaptation
**CURBED RESIDENTIAL moderate intervention**

**Moderate Way**
Implementation through community + city collaboration; unified aesthetic + experience; improved pedestrian safety; streetside swales; local composting; improved native habitat; increased canopy
curbed residential

moderate intervention

flow – rainharvesting butterfly garden

educate community on water process; encourage social interaction through neighborhood beautification, walkability, individual expression; create a destination through public art + engaging design
Wetland Wave

Curb-cuts direct street runoff; sediment filters in gravel trough/path; water level rises in trough + flows in wetland; rushes + sedges for biofiltration...
Various options that a homeowner or group of neighbors could implement, to increase the environmental effectiveness of their streetscape designs.

- **Green driveways**
- **Curb cuts to connect to street**
- **Harvest roof runoff**
- **Infiltration swale**

**Growing Connections**
Involved Avenue - Intersection
Implementation through community + city collaboration; unified aesthetic + experience; improved pedestrian safety; streetside swales; local composting; improved native habitat; increased canopy; traffic-calming; bike lane; pocket park
CURBED RESIDENTIAL involved intervention

Water Gathering
Curb bulb-out helps clean runoff from the street; provides space + a safety buffer for a small block-pocket-park; raingarden serves as a focal point + collects rainwater from a swale along the parking strip uphill.
Pedestrian Corners
A bump-out strategy is used to create room for the bike lane and calm traffic. Stormwater is integrated w/ a bus stop plaza, giving users an everyday look at stormwater management.
Institutional Area

Government Way to W. Elmore St.

34th Street from W. Barrett St. to W. Smith St.
(School|CommunityCtr|Park) Currents
School plaza, bioswale, curb extension, community garden, phytoremediation, gateway paths, trellis lighting, stairs to park
Currents – Entrance Plaza

Corner extensions narrows the crosswalk to be more pedestrian-friendly; Recycled broken concrete to reduce impervious surface; weather measuring/monitoring devices as an educational tool.
Currents – Lighting

Improvements for lighting during dark morning hours and in shaded areas; lighting at new proposed entry paths accessing the playground and courts; public art and welcoming gateway similar to magnolia/madrona flower posts
INSTITUTIONAL involved intervention

(School|CommunityCtr|Park) Currents
School plaza, median bioswale, nature strip bioswale, community garden (solar panel + cistern), grapevine boardwalk, gateway paths, trellis lighting, terraces, bike lane
INSTITUTIONAL: PARK involved intervention

Currents – Median + Park Terraces
Bio-swales help reduce amounts of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces by directing them into planted beds; periodic curb-cuts; terraced slopes provide usable spaces for tennis + playground spectators.
Institutional: Community CTR.

Involved intervention

Currents – Terraces + Grape Arbor

Terraced community gardens make productive use of the space b/w 34th + the community center as an integral part of the Summer Farmer’s Market; educational use by school children; composting.
INSTITUTIONAL: SENIOR HOUSING

Seasonal Steps
Water flows down to the pond during rainy winters; people sit by the basin embedded with recycled glass during dry summers; access is along recycled decking.
INSTITUTIONAL: LIBRARY

**easy intervention**

**Berms + Valleys**

Water flows down to the pond during rainy winters; people sit by the basin embedded with recycled glass during dry summers; access is along recycled decking.
Reading Spaces

Outdoor plaza w/ planting strip; bump-outs to calm traffic while creating a time-limited parking area; combines historical preservation principles w/ modern ecological values
Moving Channels
Curb-cuts allow water to collect from street into exposed channels w/ iron grate; develop a bike path w/in the large planting strip; if space is limited, the use of a small, lengthy channel for stormwater infiltration + cleansing