Alice Ball Park illustrates what can be accomplished with creative problem solving and collaboration with the community and public agencies.

The project site doubled through a late purchase of adjacent property, while the park budget remained the same. The initial charge was to fully design the whole site concept but build the original park on the parcel closest to the library, and leave the new parcel as a lawn until future funding became available. Instead, a whole park on two lots was accomplished. How?

Understanding what the community most valued:

* A versatile open place to come together and build community

Jumping on serendipitous opportunity:

* The library entry plaza remodel was removing beautiful stone boulders. When asked, they generously donated them to the park, which allowed the two civic facilities to share a common design language.
* Buildings were being demolished on this sloping site, so instead of removing all walls, some were repurposed for site retaining walls

Interagency collaboration:

* SDOT paid for design and construction of a raised crosswalk to the library with a supergraphic of a book unfolding and morphing into leaves, a design that further unites the two civic facilities and expresses the etymology of the word “book”, which is related to beech trees, the street tree of Greenwood Avenue.
* SDOT allowed the sidewalk to be on parks property to give the street trees more room and combine park and street circulation into one unified pathway, an idea that came out of discussions with the Seattle Design Commission

DESIGN TEAM

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/URBAN DESIGN: CASCADE DESIGN COLLABORATIVE (NOW OSBORN CONSULTING)

CIVIL ENGINEERING: LPD ENGINEERING PPLC

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING: HARBOR POWER ENGINEERS INC

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:

AGENCIES/COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

City of Seattle Parks and Recreation

City of Seattle Department of Transportation

Seattle Public Library

Seattle Design Commission

Friends of Library Park

Phinney Neighborhood Association