



CROWN HILL URBAN VILLAGE COMMUNITY PLANNING

Community Assets, Issues & Opportunities Online Survey Results

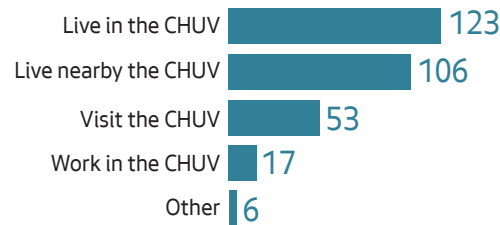
OPCD asked for your input and ideas through an online survey to help assess community priorities in the Crown Hill Urban Village. This input, in addition to feedback we've heard from other community engagement, will help shape the planning process and key issues that are addressed in a strategic community plan.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

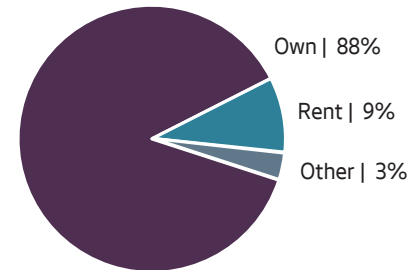
Total responses:



Connection to the CHUV:



Current Housing:



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Key Issues

Affordability: Many are concerned that the neighborhood is no longer affordable for existing and new residents, especially families and empty-nesters who want to age in place. Affordability for businesses was also a concern, as survey respondents noted businesses in the area that have closed or moved locations due to properties being redevelopment.

Growth & Change: While many expressed enthusiasm for the benefits growth could bring including more amenities, businesses, and a more vibrant public realm, they were concerned about how to manage the impacts of a growing population, including how and where growth would happen, what it would look like, and the impacts on utilities, parking, and transportation.

Identity & Community: Many noted that since the Crown Hill Urban Village is actually made up of a few neighborhoods, it currently lacks an identity and feels disjointed, with no perception of a "center" other than the intersection of 15th and 85th. Many felt that Crown Hill is a place people drive through, not a destination.

Mobility & Transportation: Many were frustrated over the lack of sidewalks, especially on routes to schools and parks. The range of responses demonstrated the competing demand for a limited amount of roadway for pedestrians, transit, bikes, and vehicles. Many were concerned about how the urban village would transition from low-density, car-centric neighborhood with ample parking to a more dense, transit-oriented neighborhood with more users in the right-of-way.

Key Opportunities & Ideas

- Support small and local businesses, including restaurants, cafes, and retailers
- Increase tree canopy, landscaping, and connection to nature ; a neighborhood of tree-lined streets
- Foster a greater sense of community and community identity
- Create an iconic "heart" of the village to gather for social interaction
- Become a pedestrian-friendly mixed-use destination with places to walk to and pleasant routes
- Foster distinct places within the neighborhood, including quiet residential streets and more vibrant shopping hubs

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES

A full version of the responses to each survey question are included at the end of this document.

1. What do you like about Crown Hill that makes it unique?

Many respondents noted that the area is lacking in great destinations or elements that make it unique; some of the community assets listed are as follows:

- Small and local businesses and services including restaurants, cafes, retail, grocery stores
- People and community
- Quiet residential areas
- Location: on top of a hill, well connected to other neighborhoods
- Parks & Open Space - Soundview Playfield, Baker Park, Crown Hill Glen, Crown Hill Cemetery
- Medical and health services
- NW 17th Avenue Greenway
- Tiny House Village, Labateyah Youth Home, senior housing, Seattle Housing Authority housing
- Community events, including markets, art markets
- Crown Hill Center
- Architecture, scale, and pattern of existing single-unit houses, including front yards

2. What are your favorite places in the Crown Hill Urban Village?

Participants listed with parks and open space and local businesses/retail as their favorite spots to go.

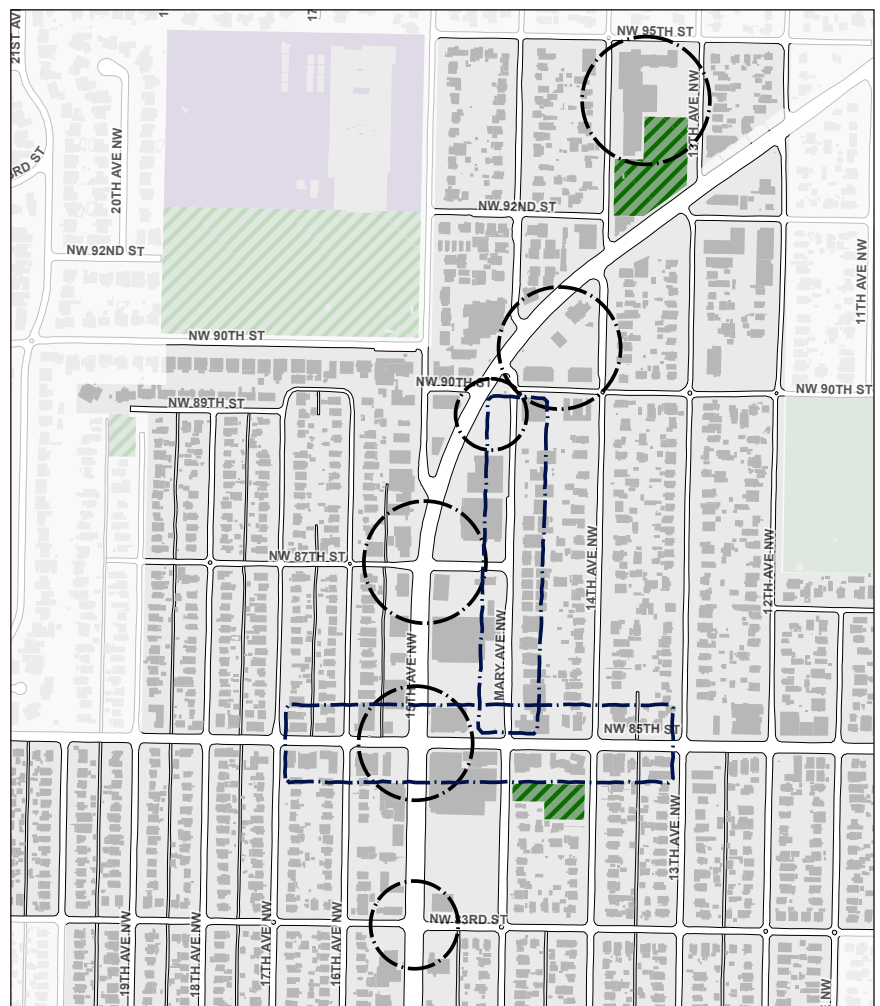
- Local businesses and retail
- Parks and open space
- Health services
- 17th Ave NW greenway
- Tiny House Village
- Alleys
- Crown Hill Center
- Local events, including the market

3. Where do you think the "town center" of Crown Hill should be? What should be there? What should it look like?

Many respondents noted that while the intersection of 15th and 85th seemed like a logical location due to the access to transit, other areas in the neighborhood might be better suited for a quieter, pedestrian-oriented "village" shopping district. Some noted that a secondary hub would help serve more people.

- Car-free and pedestrian friendly, like a European plaza/street for strolling
- A commons for gathering and events, with some covered space for markets and vendors, food trucks
- A lively shopping district with restaurants, retail, small shops, vendors

Responses to Question 3: Ideas for where to grow a "town center"



- Seating, including outdoor cafes and beer gardens
- Green space with gardens, trees, landscaping, orchards
- Activities for youth and teens
- Services including childcare, library, post office
- Arts & culture, including studios, sculptures, murals, performance space
- Connection to transit
- Police kiosks
- Games, including bocce ball, chess, scrabble
- Parking for people with mobility challenges
- Water features
- Community meeting rooms

4. What makes it hard to walk or bike around the neighborhood?

Many respondents noted that Crown Hill does not currently have a pedestrian-friendly environment, and is built to the scale and preference of vehicles. Participants noted that the combination of long blocks, few sidewalks, traffic volumes and speeds, and a lack of pedestrian street crossings as major contributors to feeling unsafe as a pedestrian on street in the urban village, especially north of N 85th Street.

- Destinations are far apart
- Puddles force pedestrians into street
- Few crossings on arterials
- Cut-through traffic on side streets
- Not visually interesting
- High traffic volumes and speeds

5. What would make walking or biking easier, safer, and more pleasant for all ages and abilities?

Respondents had many ideas to improve the pedestrian experience in the Crown Hill Urban Village, mainly around reducing conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and making streets more pedestrian-friendly:

- Replacing "beg buttons" with automatic walk signals
- More and wider sidewalks
- Limiting right turns on red
- Improving Greenways
- Adding medians and pedestrian refuges
- Traffic calming within the urban village boundaries, including narrowing travel lanes and retiming lights

6. What places would you like to walk or bike to if there were safe ways to get there?

Many respondents noted that they do already walk to places in the CHUV, even though they didn't necessarily feel safe doing so. Many also noted that they would like more destinations to be able to walk to:

- Everyday needs, including grocery stores, restaurants, banks
- Other neighborhoods - Greenwood, Ballard
- Parks
- Schools
- Transit connections

7. What housing does the neighborhood need more of to help people of all ages, abilities, and income levels find a home and stay in the community at all stages of life?

The most common responses were more affordable housing options, and more family-sized housing options. Responses

ranged from high rise apartments to retaining existing single-unit houses. However, there was a general consensus that a wider range of housing options than currently exists would be beneficial to keeping Crown Hill a neighborhood for families, and for aging in place. There were many concerns that new housing would be too expensive for current residents to remain in place.

- Family-sized housing, especially 3 bedroom units and units with outdoor spaces to play
- Highrise apartment and condos
- Accessible units for aging in place
- Low-income housing
- Co-housing
- Small infill houses, including cottages, starter houses, and backyard accessory dwelling units
- Small apartment buildings with family-sized units
- Housing for active seniors and empty nesters looking to downsize
- Ground-related housing, including townhouses and duplexes

8. What is your vision for the neighborhood in 20 years? What kind of place is it? What makes it great?

While some respondents were currently happy with the neighborhood, many were excited by the prospect of the neighborhood becoming a "true urban village" with a vibrant, mixed-use core full of destinations, and quieter residential areas with a variety of housing choices.

- The best neighborhood to raise a family; lots of kids playing in the street
- A public realm that supports community interaction, with places to stop and engage
- Iconic places, with great, safe street to walk there
- More people walking, fewer surface parking lots, more sidewalks
- Great outdoor seating with large trees and great food
- Improved transit - light rail, streetcar, better buses
- Places for kids to play