

**Privatized Public Spaces in Seattle:
Incorporating Well-designed Water Features as a Focal Point
for Engagement Opportunities**

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A thesis
submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

Master of Urban Planning

University of Washington
2019

Committee:
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Program Authorized to Offer Degree:
Urban Design and Planning

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Abstract

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as a Focal Point for Engagement Opportunities

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Key terms: public space, privatized public space, water features, site design, design guidelines

While public parks have distinct spaces carved throughout the landscape of dense cities like Seattle, the creation of smaller, more everyday public spaces—such as walkways in shopping areas or courtyards in mixed-use developments—are being created by private development projects. In the city of Seattle, the design and aesthetics of these spaces are not only influenced by the goals of the private developer but also the underlying zoning code and the neighborhood design guidelines. Therefore, an opportunity for input on the design and aesthetics of these spaces is available through the Design Review process in the City of Seattle.

With the creation of privately-managed or privately-owned public spaces on the rise, I chose to study three privately-owned public spaces with water features in Northeast Seattle: University Village, Green Lake Village, and Thornton Place. After qualitative observation sessions that included note-taking and picture-taking, I used an adapted rubric from a 2011 Master of Landscape Architecture thesis to analyze the three sites' ability to create spaces that encouraged interaction with the water feature. I found that University Village had the most engaging site due to its combination of consistent pedestrian activity, mature human-scale landscaping, the water feature's unique design, different levels of opportunities for engagement, and a plethora of seating in the vicinity.

Being able to interact with water in the urban landscape has important psychological benefits. Designing water features more intentionally can allow these pockets of privatized public space to foster more genuine interactions among its users, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city. This thesis offers four policy recommendations which can be implemented into future versions of design guidelines in Seattle or other municipalities. The four recommendations I suggest below can create more successful privatized public spaces through the purposeful inclusion of well-designed water features.

- Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features
- Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water
- Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement
- Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

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Executive Summary

Introduction

With Seattle's housing demands and growing population, the creation of smaller, more everyday public spaces—such as walkways in shopping areas or courtyards in mixed-use developments—are increasingly being created by private development projects. Whether or not these privatized public spaces are being designed in a way that enhances the livability of a dense urban area is questionable. In the City of Seattle, opportunity for input on the design and aesthetics of these spaces is available through the Design Review process. This thesis offers four recommendations which can be implemented into future iterations of design guidelines to create more successful privatized public spaces through the purposeful inclusion of well-designed water features.

Methodology

With the creation of privately-managed or privately-owned public spaces on the rise, I chose to study three privatized public spaces with water features in Northeast Seattle: University Village, Green Lake Village, and Thornton Place. After qualitative observation sessions that included note-taking and picture-taking, I used an adapted rubric from a 2011 Master of Landscape Architecture thesis to better quantify how successful each of the three sites were in creating spaces that encouraged interaction with the water feature.

Findings

University Village

- Successful Features: consistent pedestrian traffic, mature human-scale landscaping, water feature's artistic design, different levels of opportunities for engagement, good seating
- Limiting Features: small open space area outside of water feature to play

Green Lake Village

- Successful Features: pedestrian connections, variety of viewpoints, focused pathways
- Limiting Features: poor water feature design

Thornton Place

- Successful Features: large open space area, several engagement activities, good seating
- Limiting Features: lack of human-scale landscaping to buffer tall buildings, large open space area lacked suggestive pathways to encourage more engagement

Overall Trends

- At all three sites, children were more likely than other age groups to play in the water
- When adults did interact with water features, usually to supervise or help their child

Further Research

While this thesis study offers meaningful contributions to the use of design guidelines and the design of water features in privately-managed public spaces, further research could focus on:

- Conducting observations throughout the year, not just during the summer months,
- Studying a broader range of sites to examine whether or not issues of social justice and equity affect the ability to create meaningful privatized public spaces with water features,

- Examining whether the zoning of a site allowing for commercial versus mixed use has an influences on the successful implementation of water features in open spaces, and
- Analyzing the relationship between a site’s success and neighborhood demographics.

Policy Recommendations

The four recommendations I suggest below can create more successful privatized public spaces through the purposeful inclusion of well-designed water features.

Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features

- Commercial and mixed-use developments can be incentivized to provide water feature amenities using public art to give site users a sense of familiarity, community, and place.
- While including public art within water features may have higher design, installation and maintenance costs, creating richer public spaces that attract more users to the site may allow building managers to charge higher rents for the surrounding commercial spaces.

Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water

- Using both still and moving water attract different types of users—pools of waters can create a more calming element for users looking to relieve stress and users of varied mobility can more easily interact with a pond or a bowl of water without getting too wet.
- Creating both components has a secondary benefit as parts of the water feature can usually be incorporated into the stormwater management of the site.

Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement

- Developers may want a water feature as a focal point to an open space area, but its success can be enhanced through thoughtful placement of human-scale elements.
- Landscaping can be expensive to maintain, so having thoughtful planting plans that are realistically aligned with future maintenance budgets is important.

Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

- Using light and sound can activate the site beyond daytime hours. This can be done after a water feature has long been in place to revitalize the space and give it new meaning.
- Variety of light, sound, and other technological additions gives sites the flexibility to scale the amenities appropriately to fit within their budget constraints.

Conclusion

By designing water features more intentionally, these privatized public spaces can foster more genuine interactions between its users, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life within the dense urban environment of major cities.

“Even in the captive, contained, and confined pools of our urban waterways, water affects us... Water reminds us of high mountains and streams, of deep chasms and gurgling brooks and the quiet sounds of the wilderness. Even in a city, the sound and sight of water stirs the most elemental and basic roots of our human natures.” —Lawrence Halprin

“More than any other single element besides trees and gardens, water has the greatest potential to forge an emotional link between man and nature in the city.” —Anne Whiston Spirn

Introduction

Water, a necessity of life for humankind, has always been a source of enjoyment and fascination when successfully incorporated into public spaces. Some of the most well-known examples in the United States include the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in Washington, D.C., the Buckingham Fountain in Chicago, and the Fountains of Bellagio in Las Vegas. Beyond memorable tourist attractions, water can play a more subtle yet still significant role in the public spaces we interact with on a daily basis. While public parks already have distinct spaces carved throughout the landscape of dense cities like Seattle, the creation of everyday public spaces—from walkways in shopping areas to courtyards in mixed-use developments—is increasingly being influenced by private development owners rather than public planners or officials. With these privately-managed or privately-owned public spaces on the rise, the motivation for this thesis was to explore whether these types of public spaces, specifically those with water features, are encouraging meaningful engagement with the water and shaping interactions among users. To foster the implementation of water features that are created intentionally to maximize value for its users, this thesis also outlines design guidelines that could be incorporated into future iterations of Seattle design guidelines.

In Seattle, neighborhoods have been influenced by the 1990’s effort from city officials to develop and implement neighborhood-level comprehensive plans.¹ Today, that effort has transformed into neighborhood-level design guidelines for 22 defined areas throughout the city. I chose to study three privately-owned public spaces with water features in three neighborhoods with design guidelines: Green Lake, Northgate, and University, which are all in the Northeastern section of Seattle (see Figure 1). The specific design guidelines for these three neighborhoods

¹ (City of Seattle: Department of Neighborhoods 2006).

lacked holistic descriptions and opportunities for the use of water in the creation of public spaces. Thus, the ultimate goal of this thesis is to provide more distinctive language within the existing neighborhood design guidelines for the design and implementation of water features in public spaces to encourage more human interactions.

Each site is also located in an area that has been designated through the City’s “Urban Village” concept, as defined by the 2005 Comprehensive Plan (see Figure 2). Green Lake Village is within the Green Lake Residential Urban Village, Thornton Place is within the Northgate Urban Center, and University Village is within the University Urban Center.



Figure 1: Location of Study Sites in Seattle. Source: Author.

Seattle 2005 Comprehensive Plan: Categories of Urban Villages

The urban village strategy tries to match growth to the existing and intended character of the city’s neighborhoods. Four categories of urban villages recognize the different roles that different areas will play in the city’s future:

1. **Urban centers** are the densest neighborhoods in the city and are both regional centers and neighborhoods that provide a diverse mix of uses, housing, and employment opportunities. Larger urban centers are divided into urban center villages to recognize the distinct character of different neighborhoods within them.
2. **Manufacturing/Industrial Centers** are home to the city’s thriving industrial businesses. As with urban centers, Manufacturing/Industrial Centers are regional designations and are an important regional resource.
3. **Hub urban villages** are communities that provide a balance of housing and employment, generally at densities lower than those found in urban centers. These areas provide a focus of goods, services, and employment to communities that are not close to urban centers.
4. **Residential urban villages** provide a focus of goods and services for residents and surrounding communities but may not provide a concentration of employment.

Figure 2: Definitions of Urban Villages in Seattle. Source: Seattle 2005 Comprehensive Plan, pp. 1.3-1.4.

During hour-long qualitative observations, I studied how the water features at each site were used, activity in the area surrounding the water feature, and interactions among and between three different types of users: children, adults, and passersby. Using an adapted matrix from a 2011 UW graduate student Matthews' thesis that studied public spaces with water features, along with pictures and notes from my observations, I compared the relative success of each site and its water feature in terms of levels of engagement and interaction. Matthews' qualitative rubric evaluated how successfully water features in public spaces incorporated the values of aesthetics, wellness, and sustainability in their design, use, and surroundings. The values of aesthetics and wellness were important in my analysis, but as this thesis study is less focused on the ecological aspect of the water feature designs, the evaluation of sustainability was not included in the adapted version of Matthews' rubric. This thesis also differs from Matthews' thesis in that it focuses on public spaces that are owned and operated by private entities rather than public parks. Figure 6 provides a summary of the differences between my thesis methodology and Matthews' methodology.

Through the observations at each site, I noticed that age was a key determining factor in whether or not users would engage with the water features. Across all three sites, children were much more likely than other age groups to play in the water features. When adults did interact with the water features, the most common reason was supervising or helping their child or children. Besides adults who were parents, adults were somewhat more likely to engage if they were traveling through the site with other adult friends or if they were walking their dog. Adults traveling through the site alone were the least likely to interact with the water features.

More high quality interactions were observed at University Village, which received the highest overall average scores compared to the other two sites due to the combination of unique sculptural design and the child-scale implementation of the water feature. At Green Lake Village, which had similar space constraints to University Village, the way in which the benches were designed limited their ability to encourage engagement with the water feature. Thornton Place had the largest water feature situated within the largest plaza of the three sites, which allowed for more freedom and game play of children using the water feature. However, the overall impact was limited by the lack of human-scale vegetation and towering buildings nearby.

The goal of this thesis is to offer specificity around the implementation of water features in the form of suggested design guidelines in order to create more successful privatized public

spaces. I recommend that the following strategies be implemented into the next version of the Seattle Design Guidelines:

- Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features
- Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water
- Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement
- Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

Each of these policy options have different trade-offs that will be important for decision-makers to consider when determining how to frame the options or negotiate with developers through the use of incentives or other ways to encourage projects to follow the design guidelines. That being said, being able to interact with water in the urban landscape has important psychological benefits. Designing water features more intentionally can allow these pockets of privatized public space to foster more genuine interactions among its users, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city.

Background Information

University Village

Site Development

Before becoming the expansive open-air mall that it is today, University Village went through several different phases of development. In 1946, after World War II, the community opened up a Victory Garden on six acres.² It stayed a community garden until 1956, when the first version of University Village was built, which featured all local shops with a bowling alley on an adjacent site. Some construction work had to be done to make the land—part of which was a wetland—buildable, and it eventually became a 22-acre site.³ An opening ceremony was held with the executive vice president of Continental Inc., the company that owned the mall; the main attraction was the Rhodes department store.⁴ Figure 3.1 shows the mall six years after it opened in 1962 and today in 2015, with the red box showing the studied public space.

University Village is known to Seattleites today as an upscale place to shop compared to Northgate Mall and other urban retail areas. On the University Village website, the owners choose to brand the shopping mall as noteworthy in mixing local businesses and national chains, emphasizing that University Village is “Seattle’s only outdoor lifestyle shopping center...a fixture in the surrounding neighborhoods...home to beloved local stores and restaurants, some which have been in business for more than 30 years.” Owned by Stuart Sloan, the former CEO of grocery store chain QFC, University Village is now a 24-acre site that in 2016 was estimated to make a profit of \$900-\$1000 in sales per square foot, much better than the average \$474 sales per square foot for other malls in the country.⁵ Figure 3.2 shows a view from the complex’s southern parking garage looking north, with the study area (about 1,850 square feet in size) between two buildings shown by the red box, as well as a close-up of the water feature.

Site Design and Water Feature Design

The water feature consists of a series of sculptures depicting frogs and turtles that intermittently spray water. Specifically, there are five frogs sitting atop rocks that spray water onto a turtle, who also sprays water towards the frog directly in front of it, sitting atop a smaller rock about three feet away. There are also two turtle sculptures sitting on the ground behind the

² (Tobin and Sodt 2002)

³ (Dorpat 2001)

⁴ (Seattle Post Intelligencer 1956)

⁵ (Tu, Seattle Times, 2016)

turtle on the rock that do not spray water. The water feature is located within a 60 square feet rectangular area of bricks, which differentiates it from the surrounding space.

This unique water feature was created by Georgia Gerber an artist and sculptor local to the Seattle region. Working from her studio on Whidbey Island, Gerber has created over fifty art installations for schools, libraries, town centers, parks, and museums throughout the state of Washington, the country, and even in Japan. Regarding how she would like her art to be engaged with, she has said she likes it to “invite an interaction with its audience. This is often meant to be a direct physical interaction, but always I strive to engage the viewer's imagination. I tend to present an incomplete visual narrative; a story is suggested, a feeling evoked, and the viewers find themselves providing details.”⁶

Surrounding the water feature are a few movable tables with umbrellas and chairs, as seen in Figure 3.3. Usually one or both of the tables would be on the eastern side of the water feature along with some chairs by themselves on the western side. Beyond the two sets of tables there are small planted gardens with trees and along the southern edge of the water feature, there is also a wooden bench that can comfortably sit three to four people.

Neighborhood Demographics

In a dataset developed from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey by the City of Seattle’s Department of Planning and Development, University Village was considered part of the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood. In the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood surrounding University Village, there were a total of 10,738 housing units with a population of 25,113 residents. Around 25% of the households had at least one child under 18 years old and in terms of home ownership, about 61% of the housing units are owner-occupied whereas around 39% are renter-occupied. While nearly 81% of the neighborhood is white, the age brackets are somewhat evenly divided with about 17% between the ages of 25-34 years old, 14.1% between the ages of 20-24 years old, and 13.9% between the ages of 35-44 years old. Roughly three-quarters of the Ravenna/Bryant area has at least a bachelor’s degree and the median household income is around \$77,000.⁷ The study also found that 15.7% of the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood speaks a language other than English at home.

⁶ (Gerber 2004)

⁷ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. 2015. Ravenna/Bryant Neighborhood Statistics)



Figure 3.1: University Village in 1962 and 2015, with the study area in between two buildings shown by the red box. Sources: City of Seattle: Office of the Municipal Clerk 1962; King County iMap.

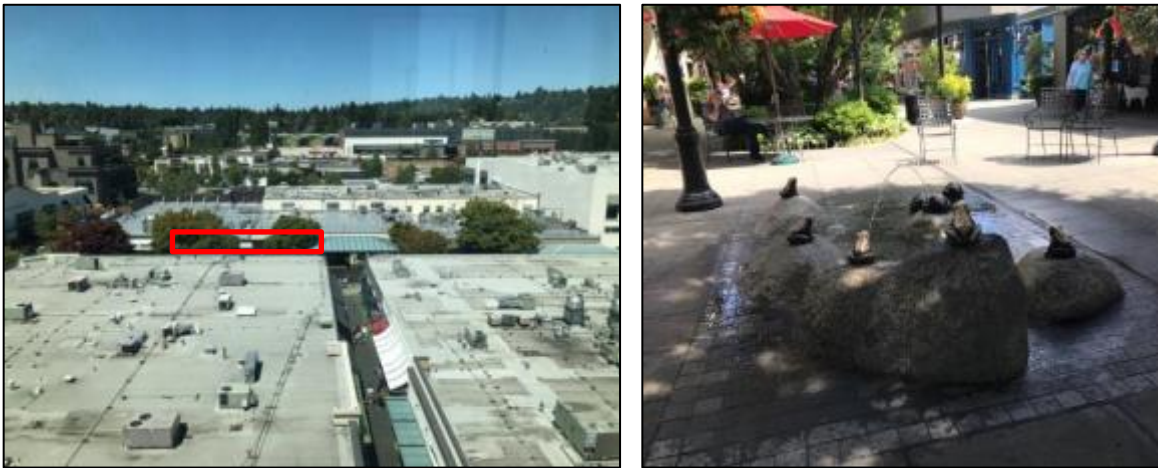


Figure 3.2: University Village seen from the southern parking garage with the study area in between two buildings shown by the red box, and a close-up of the water feature facing east. Source: Author.



Figure 3.3: Two views of the study area and surrounding seating facing west. Source: Author.

Green Lake Village

Site Development

Green Lake Village is a three-acre, full-block site bounded by NE 71st and NE 72nd St as its southern and northern boundaries and Woodlawn Ave NE and 5th Ave NE as its western and eastern boundaries respectively. The site was occupied by the Vitamilk Dairy plant, which had been operating for over sixty years and closed in 2003.⁸ The picture on the left side of Figure 4.1 shows what the site looked like in 2005. Redevelopment of the block into a complex called Green Lake Village began with the demolishing of the historic Vitamilk plant in 2007 and after the economic recession in 2008 stalled the ability to find a grocery store anchor,⁹ construction was finally completed in 2014.

The new complex consists of three 6-story mixed-use residential buildings with 85,000 square feet of commercial and retail space including a PCC Community Markets store (PCC), 23,000 square feet of open space, 297 apartment units, and an underground parking lot with 430 spaces.¹⁰ While 23,000 square feet may seem like a large amount of open space, this includes two rooftop decks that are only available to apartment tenants. Green Lake Village is located in a part of the Green Lake neighborhood, which has been designated as a “residential urban village” by the City of Seattle.¹¹

Site Design and Water Feature Design

The study area within Green Lake Village, shown in Figures 4.1-4.3, is part of a T-shaped open space that creates a mid-block path for pedestrians and cyclists to travel more easily between the three buildings on the block and access ground-level storefronts. The study area, about 4,000 square feet, consists of the open space between PCC, a frozen yogurt store, and a café, including the water feature. Five granite benches, each with a fountain on one end of the bench that spills water over the length of the bench and creates a gentle waterfall to the ground three feet below, make up the studied water feature. The waterfall benches take up approximately 450 square feet in area and are subtly demarcated from the rest of the study area through the use of differently-oriented bricks. Surrounding the benches are several different types of seating areas, shown in Figure 4.3, including about twenty sets of anchored tables with movable chairs

⁸ (Daily Journal of Commerce 2014)

⁹ (Eskanazi, Seattle Times, 2008).

¹⁰ (Daily Journal of Commerce 2014)

¹¹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Green Lake Design Guidelines. 2013)

split among the three storefronts and two larger wooden benches/structures at the northern and southern edges of the space that can comfortably sit two or three small groups of people.

Neighborhood Demographics

According to data developed from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey by the City of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development, the Green Lake neighborhood had a population of 14,466 people living in a total of 7,163 housing units. The City research found that nearly 20% of the households within the Green Lake neighborhood had at least one or more people under 18 years old. In terms of home ownership, it is almost split evenly with 50.7% of the housing units being owner-occupied and 49.3% being renter-occupied. Roughly 30% of the neighborhood population was between the ages of 25-34 years old, about 84% were white, the median household income was \$90,263, and about 74% had at least a bachelor's degree.¹² Alternatively, market research in 2013 done specifically for the firms involved in the Green Lake Village development found that the surrounding neighborhood (within a one mile radius of Green Lake Village) housed a total population of roughly 28,000 people, 45% of which were between 15-24 years old. That research found that within the mile radius of Green Lake Village, the median household income was around \$73,000 and nearly 70% of the population had at least a four-year college degree.¹³ 14.2% of the Green Lake neighborhood speaks a language other than English at home.

¹² (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. 2015. Green Lake Neighborhood Statistics)

¹³ (Real Retail (publication date unknown). "Green Lake Village—Project Package new logo cover.")



Figure 4.1: Aerial view of Green Lake Village in 2005 and 2015 respectively; the studied area is shown by the red box in the picture on the right. Sources: King County iMap.



Figure 4.2: Close-up aerial view of the study area, with the five waterfall benches shown in the red box; view of the five waterfall benches looking east towards PCC. Sources: King County iMap; author.



Figure 4.3: View of the study area from the PCC seating area looking northwest; view of the study area from the northern wooden bench looking south. Source: author.

Thornton Place

Site Development

Built in 2009, Thornton Place is a nearly 4.5 acre, full-block site south of Northgate Mall in the Northgate neighborhood. Previously a parking lot, as shown in Figure 5.1, the block is bounded by NE 103rd St and NE 100th St as its northern and southern boundaries and by 5th Ave NE and 3rd Ave NE as its eastern and western boundaries respectively. Thornton Place includes a mixed-use apartment and condominium complex, a 14-screen three-story Regal Cinemas theater in the northwest corner, a UW Medicine facility, 2.5 acres dedicated to the daylighting of Thornton Creek and green space, and a retirement facility in the southeast corner. Specifically, the mixed-use complex consists of “two 6-story buildings housing 279 market-rate apartments and six 3-story buildings housing 109 condominiums, all constructed over a 950-stall garage, with 50,000 square feet of retail space at the ground.”¹⁴ The studied public plaza is located in between the main Thornton Place residential building and the theater, as shown by the red box in Figure 5.1.

Located within the same block as the Thornton Place plaza, behind the 388 housing units, the daylighting project for Thornton Creek has been commended by many entities. The design and implementation of the project has won the 2008 American Society of Civil Engineers’ Outstanding Civil Engineering Award, the 2009 Seattle Design Commission’s Design Excellence Award, and the 2010 Washington Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects’ Honor Award.¹⁵ The Thornton Place complex as a whole was also recognized by the LEED Neighborhood Development rating system.

Site Design and Water Feature Design

Figure 5.2 shows a more detailed aerial view as well as a view from the ground of the study area. The fountain, about 1,000 square feet in area, is differentiated from the rest of the plaza through the use of a large circular area of bricks that are raised slightly above the rest of the plaza, which is at least 10,000 square feet in area. The water feature consists of one large central fountain spraying outward onto five small stone structures that each spray water towards the central fountain. The five smaller fountains are placed along the circumference of a concentric circle within the bricked circular area. The plaza has a variety of seating options, as

14 (Engineering News-Record 2009)

15 (SvR Design Company 2012)

shown in Figure 5.3; surrounding the water feature are about fifteen movable tables with chairs and stand-alone umbrellas. Along the western edge of the plaza, two sets of 25-30 foot long planter boxes with attached benches facing the plaza and a life-size chess board with benches nearby in the northwest corner all help create a buffer between the plaza and the parking spots and street. On the southern side of the plaza, an outdoor fire pit is surrounded by a handful of plastic Adirondack-style chairs as well as specific covered seating areas for two of the restaurants located on the plaza.

Neighborhood Demographics

In a dataset developed from the 2009-2013 American Community Survey by the City of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development, Thornton Place was considered part of the Northgate/Maple Leaf neighborhood. In the Northgate/Maple Leaf neighborhood, there were a total of 7,614 housing units with a population of 14,020 residents. Around 18% of the households had at least one child under 18 years old and in terms of home ownership, about 39% of the housing units are owner-occupied whereas around 61% are renter-occupied. Nearly 70% of the neighborhood is white and the age ranges of residents skewed slightly older compared to the other site's neighborhoods, with 19.5% between the ages of 25-34 years old, 18.1% between the ages of 35-44 years old, and 11% between the ages of 45-54 years old. A little more than half of the Northgate/Maple Leaf area has at least a bachelor's degree and the median household income is around \$56,400.¹⁶ The study also found that 26.9% of the Northgate/Maple Leaf neighborhood speaks a language other than English at home.

¹⁶ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. 2015. Northgate/Maple Leaf Neighborhood Statistics)



Figure 5.1: Thornton Place in 2002 and 2015, with the studied area shown by the red box. Sources: Banfield 2011; King County iMap.



Figure 5.2: Aerial view of the public plaza with the study area delineated by the red box; water fountain with Thornton Place apartments in the background. Sources: King County iMap; Author.



Figure 5.3: View of the public plaza from the northern edge looking south; life-size chess board on the northwestern side of the public plaza. Source: Author.

Literature Review

Water Features in Public Spaces

In 2011, Jeanne Matthews of the University of Washington published her thesis, titled “Aquatraction: Connections with Water in the Urban Public Space,” for her graduate degree in Landscape Architecture. Matthews studied ten different public spaces, each with water features, located throughout the Pacific Northwest (Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Vancouver, British Columbia) as well as San Francisco, California and one international location of Paris, France. Her methodology included the use of pictures, descriptive observation notes, and scores from a qualitative rubric (see Appendix A) to help assess which water features ranked highest in three overarching values of aesthetics, wellness, and sustainability. Each of the three values had two associated actions and each action had two qualities (see Tables 7 and 8). For each quality, Matthews created questions that acted as a “means of exploring and assessing ...their presence and incorporation in the water features.”¹⁷ Overall, Matthews found that the three most successful sites were Cal Anderson Park in Seattle, Tanner Springs Park in Portland, and Yerba Buena Gardens in San Francisco. Her deeper analysis of the rubric scoring of these three sites support her main argument that while the most effective and meaningful spaces with water incorporate all three of her identified qualities of aesthetics, wellness, and sustainability, “aesthetics is the most vital, as it allows for the success of the other values of wellness and sustainability.”¹⁸ All of the top three sites scored particularly well in the focus quality within the Aesthetics value, meaning the sites were successfully able to use the water feature as a way to “pull people into a site and then hold their attention, causing them to linger.”¹⁹

Other researchers argue that implementing water features is crucial in the creation of therapeutic and healing public spaces, as water features “provide positive distraction, something soothing or interesting to look at and listen to, a destination to aim for, and assist in wayfinding.”²⁰ Marcus and Sachs suggest several universal design criteria for water features, like having a variety of seating options near the water feature, enabling opportunities for interaction and ways to engage multiple senses, ensuring the sound of the water feature is soothing, and

¹⁷ (Matthews 2011, p. 33)

¹⁸ (Matthews 2011, p. 100)

¹⁹ (Matthews 2011, p. 100)

²⁰ (Marcus and Sachs 2014, p. 85)

designing the feature to allow for interesting aesthetics throughout the seasons.²¹ These design criteria align with Matthews' qualities of visibility, focus, and delight within the Aesthetics value as well as the contact and sensory experience qualities within the Wellness value. Anne Whiston Spirn notes that "water is a source of life, power, comfort, and delight, a universal symbol of purification and renewal. Like a primordial magnet, water pulls at a primitive and deeply rooted part of human nature. More than any other single element besides trees and gardens, water has the greatest potential to forge an emotional link between man and nature in the city."²²

Lawrence Halprin, renowned for his work in landscape architecture throughout the United States, has written repeatedly about the importance of interacting with water in an urban environment. Halprin notes that "even in the captive, contained, and confined pools of our urban waterways, water affects us... Water reminds us of high mountains and streams, of deep chasms and gurgling brooks and the quiet sounds of the wilderness. Even in a city, the sound and sight of water stirs the most elemental and basic roots of our human natures."²³ He categorizes different ways to bring in water to the design of public spaces: quiet waters, gushing waters, recreation, running water, waterfalls, edges, jets, and bowls. Regarding bowls, Halprin says that "the bowl is the simplest form of sculpture with water. It can lift water high up in a square without resource to great pressures; it can increase the feeling of water without the need for large volumes; it can serve as a source for a waterfall or stand in a plaza as a piece of sculpture."²⁴ Waterfalls create a different experience; to Halprin, "when water falls, its surface is broken and aerated and it becomes luminous and alive."²⁵

He continues in more detail as he describes various characteristics of water that can be created through different site and feature designs: "the visual qualities of water depend largely on its activation and the way it reflects light. It has luminosity and brilliance, and when caught in droplets, it sparkles like gems. As it falls, it moves the flat surfaces into ripples and corrugations, and these reflect the light with pinpoints of brilliance. Depending on the light which strikes the surface, it can be dull and leaden. Water has sounds as well. It gurgles, it splashes. It goes plop, plop, plop. And fshzzzsh. And spaatzzz."²⁶ These ideas are captured in Matthews' rubric through

²¹ (Marcus and Sachs 2014, p. 85)

²² (Spirn 1984, p. 142)

²³ (Halprin 1972, p. 134)

²⁴ (Halprin 1972, p. 154)

²⁵ (Halprin 1972, p. 146)

²⁶ (Halprin 1972, pp. 142-143)

the sensory experience quality within the Wellness value and the delight quality within the Aesthetics value.

Privately-Managed Public Spaces

Victor Gruen argued in his 1964 book that “if one were to try to reduce to three the qualities or characteristics that make a city, they might be 1) compactness, 2) intensity of public life, 3) a small-grained pattern in which all types of human activities are intermingled in close proximity.”²⁷ Margaret Kohn discusses the dwindling presence of truly public spaces in her 2004 book, arguing that the privately-owned and managed shopping mall has become one of the few places that Americans interact with one another. She notes that “the shopping mall is so attractive because it combines the pleasures of public life with the safety and familiarity of the private realm... Once developers possess the power of property rights, they usually exercise them to create the highly orchestrated and controlled environments that eviscerate the diversity that animates public space.”²⁸ Kohn notes that “the privatization of public space poses a number of conceptual challenges for public policy makers. Does the ownership or use determine whether a particular place is truly private? How should the right to private property be weighed against the legitimate state interest in sustaining a public sphere?”²⁹

William Whyte became famous from his work studying how public plazas in New York City were used in “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces.” At the time of his work in the early 1970’s, developers were incentivized to build these open spaces through zoning regulations that in turn allowed them to increase their building height beyond what would normally be allowed without building the open space. Whyte and his team of researchers worked with the Planning Commission to study whether these regulations were creating successful open spaces. Whyte took a more compromising and less critical approach than Kohn, framing his study by saying that “for the millions of dollars of extra space [the City] was handing out to builders, it had every right to demand much better plazas in return.”³⁰ In terms of the importance of building successful privately-managed public spaces, he noted that “a good new space builds a new constituency. It stimulates people into new habits...and provides new paths to and from work, new places to

²⁷ (Gruen 1964, p. 28)

²⁸ (Kohn 2004, p. 75-76)

²⁹ (Kohn 2004, p. 70)

³⁰ (Whyte 1980, p. 15)

pause.”³¹ Through the extensive qualitative analysis, Whyte found that “the best-used plazas are sociable places...a high proportion of people in groups is an index of selectivity. When people go to a place in twos or threes or rendezvous there, it is most often because they have decided to. Nor are these sociable places less congenial to the individual. In absolute numbers, they attract more individuals than do less-used spaces”³² Whyte hypothesized that factors influencing the popularity of certain public spaces would be variables such as size, shape, and amount of sun, but in reality, the important factors seemed to be the amount of seating available and that there were a variety of seating choices.³³ Whyte argued that “people tend to sit most where there are places to sit...The most attractive fountains, the most striking designs, cannot induce people to come and sit if there is no place to sit.”³⁴ This finding aligns well the Marcus and Sachs research mentioned previously. Both Whyte and another well-known researcher of urban space, Jan Gehl, suggest that the safety of a public space can be analyzed in terms of how many women frequent the space.³⁵

Interactions in Public Spaces

In a 2015 article on how urban public spaces influence cross-cultural interaction, Phil Wood writes that “the public realm...comprises the streets, squares, parks, green spaces, and other outdoor places that require no key to access them and are available, without charge for everyone to use. Public realm belongs to everyone, it is part of our everyday lives and it is where we move, meet and market on a daily basis.”³⁶ Francis et al.’s 2012 analysis “found “the key to social interaction by people in their localities was not the quantity of public space available in a given neighborhood, but the *quality* of the public space provided.”³⁷

Lennard and Lennard’s 1984 analysis of successful public plazas and squares in Europe suggest that enclosed squares offer a sense of comfort, noting that “a public urban space gains much of its sense of ‘place’ from its enclosed character. Ideally the space is surrounded by building or other barriers...this quality of visual enclosure focuses attention on the people and

³¹ (Whyte 1980, p. 16)

³² (Whyte 1980, p. 16)

³³ (Whyte 1980, p. 28)

³⁴ (Whyte 1980, p. 28)

³⁵ (Gehl and Svarre 2013, p. 14; Whyte 1980, p. 18)

³⁶ (Wood 2015, p. 54)

³⁷ (Wood 2015, p. 55)

events within the spaces.”³⁸ However, they later note that “small squares that function as gathering spaces for a local community do not need large dramatic backgrounds but are better able to use small centralized points as a focus of their social life. Sculptures, fountains and clocks...are identified as a ‘center stage,’ locations at which people become actors rather than audience.”³⁹

Cooper and Francis studied several different types of urban public space, including urban plazas, which they defined as “predominantly hard-surfaced outdoor space in a downtown area, generally developed as part of a new high-rise building. Such plazas are often privately owned and managed but generally accessible to the public.”⁴⁰ Based on their research of urban plazas along with six other categories of urban public space, they developed a list of characteristics that successful “people places” should implement, including:

- “Be located where it is easily accessible to and can be seen by potential users.”
- “Clearly convey the message that the place is available for use and is meant to be used.”
- “Be beautiful and engaging on both the outside and the inside.”
- “Be furnished to support the most likely and desirable activities.”
- “Provide a feeling of security and safety to would-be users.”
- “Where appropriate, offer relief from urban stress and enhance the health and emotional well-being of its users.”
- “Offer an environment that is physiologically comfortable at peak use times, in regard to sun and shade, windiness, and the like.”
- “Be accessible to children and disabled people.”
- “Incorporate components that the users can manipulate or change (e.g....interactive sculpture and fountains in urban plazas.”⁴¹

Design Guidelines

The Urban Land Institute has noted that “including community-based design guidelines and design review as part of the zoning code offers communities an opportunity to shape the aesthetics of compact development and ensures that it is consistently compatible with local

³⁸ (Lennard 1984, p. 23)

³⁹ (Lennard 1984, p. 26)

⁴⁰ (Cooper and Francis 1998, p. 5)

⁴¹ (Cooper and Francis 1998, p. 9-10)

character.”⁴² They also emphasized that “design considerations can be particularly important in the more intimate spaces of compact development, which will be more frequently experienced at a human scale than automobile-oriented development.”⁴³ The City of Seattle developed its first iteration of design guidelines in 1993 and its latest version is from 2013. The 2013 citywide Seattle Design Guidelines are supplemented by a series of guidelines for 22 defined neighborhoods that were also all updated in 2013 to match the way in which the citywide guidelines were organized and formatted. The 2013 Seattle Design Guidelines go into detail outlining ideal practices for 3-4 principles for the three main themes: Context and Site, Public Life, and Design Concept (see Table 1). Specific Neighborhood Design Guidelines then have the ability to choose whether or not they accept the Seattle Design Guidelines as is for each principal or they can discuss certain principles in further detail.

Table 1: Themes and Principles of Design Guidelines⁴⁴

	THEMES		
	Context and Site	Public Life	Design Concept
Principles	CS1: Natural Systems and Site Features	PL1: Open Space Connectivity	DC1: Project Uses and Activities
	CS2: Urban Pattern and Form	PL2: Walkability	DC2: Architectural Concept
	CS3: Architectural Context and Character	PL3: Street-Level Interaction	DC3: Open Space Concept
		PL4: Active Transportation	DC4: Materials

Within CS1, neighborhood design guidelines can discuss the role of water, whereas open space can be emphasized in PL1, related to open space connectivity, and DC3, related to open space concept. In the sections below, I have highlighted portions that mention water, open space, or public space from the citywide design guidelines as well as the three neighborhood-level design guidelines for the three neighborhoods studied.

Seattle Design Guidelines

In the introduction, the document mentions that “design that preserves, reflects, or takes inspiration from the physical environment of hills, water, forests, and mountains that comprise the extraordinary setting surrounding Seattle” is one of the key qualities residents and officials

⁴² (Urban Land Institute and National Multi-Housing Council 2008, p. 126)

⁴³ (Urban Land Institute and National Multi-Housing Council 2008, p. 126)

⁴⁴(City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013)

would like to see recognized throughout the city’s urban fabric.⁴⁵ In CS1’s section on water, it suggests using any existing on-site natural water features in the site design and “where feasible, [to] use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements. Features such as...fountains of recycled water, and/or water art installations can create movement and sound, air cooling, focal points for pedestrians, and habitats which may already be required to manage on-site stormwater and allow reuse of potable water for irrigation.”⁴⁶ In CS2, creating a sense of place is emphasized, especially sites with “prominent visibility, relationships to bodies of water or significant trees, natural areas, open spaces, iconic buildings or transportation junctions, and land seen as a gateway to the community.”⁴⁷

In PL1’s section on outdoor uses and activities, it suggests designing open spaces that are accessible year-round, including the use of water features. PL1 also mentions the importance of creating open spaces that “foster human interaction”⁴⁸ and offers many suggestions for making open spaces pedestrian-friendly and human-scale (see Table 2). An aspect of DC1 focuses on the creation of gathering places and suggests placing exterior gathering places “at the crossroads of high levels of pedestrian traffic” or in “proximity to nearby or project-related shops and services” and implementing “amenities that complement the building design and offer safety and security when used outside normal business hours.”⁴⁹ DC3 provides a plethora of suggestions regarding the design of open space, such as having amenities that can be moved or adapted to allow users to meet changing needs throughout the seasons and to enable social connections by making open spaces in multifamily projects that are available to both residents and the public (see Table 3).

⁴⁵(City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. iv)

⁴⁶(City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 3)

⁴⁷ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 4)

⁴⁸ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 11)

⁴⁹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 21)

Table 2: Excerpt from Seattle Design Guidelines on PL1: Open Space Connectivity⁵⁰

PL1: Open Space Connectivity
Complement and contribute to the network of open spaces around the site and the connections among them.
<p>A: Network of Open Spaces</p> <p><u>1. Enhancing Open Space:</u> Design the building and open spaces to positively contribute to a broader network of open spaces throughout the neighborhood. Consider ways that design can enhance the features and activities of existing off-site open spaces. Open space may include sidewalks, streets and alleys, circulation routes and other open areas of all kinds.</p> <p><u>2. Adding to Public Life:</u> Seek opportunities to foster human interaction through an increase in the size and/or quality of project-related open space available for public life. Consider features such as widened sidewalks, recessed entries, curb bulbs, courtyards, plazas, or through-block connections, along with place-making elements such as trees, landscape, art, or other amenities, in addition to the pedestrian amenities listed in PL1.B3.</p>
<p>B: Walkways and Connections</p> <p><u>1. Pedestrian Infrastructure:</u> Connect on-site pedestrian walkways with existing public and private pedestrian infrastructure, thereby supporting pedestrian connections within and outside the project.</p> <p><u>2. Pedestrian Volumes:</u> Provide ample space for pedestrian flow and circulation, particularly in areas where there is already heavy pedestrian traffic or where the project is expected to add or attract pedestrians to the area.</p> <p><u>3. Pedestrian Amenities:</u> Opportunities for creating lively, pedestrian oriented open spaces to enliven the area and attract interest and interaction with the site and building should be considered. Visible access to the building’s entry should be provided. Examples of pedestrian amenities include seating, other street furniture, lighting, year-round landscaping, seasonal plantings, pedestrian scale signage, site furniture, art work, awnings, large storefront windows, and engaging retail displays and/or kiosks.</p>
<p>C: Outdoor Uses and Activities</p> <p><u>1. Selecting Activity Areas:</u> Concentrate activity areas in places with sunny exposure, views across spaces, and in direct line with pedestrian routes.</p> <p><u>2. Informal Community Uses:</u> In addition to places for walking and sitting, consider including space for informal community use such as performances, farmer’s markets, kiosks and community bulletin boards, cafes, or street vending.</p> <p><u>3. Year-Round Activity:</u> Where possible, include features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety. These may include: seasonal plantings or displays and/or water features; outdoor heaters; overhead weather protection; ample, moveable seating and tables and opportunities for outdoor dining; an extra level of pedestrian lighting; trees for moderate weather protection and shade; and/or 24-hour Wi-Fi service.</p>

⁵⁰ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 11-12)

Table 3: Excerpt from Seattle Design Guidelines on DC3: Open Space Concept⁵¹

DC3: Open Space Concept
Integrate open space design with the design of the building so that each complements the other.
<p>A: Building-Open Space Relationship</p> <p><u>1. Interior/Exterior Fit:</u> Develop an open space concept in conjunction with the architectural concept to ensure that interior and exterior spaces relate well to each other and support the functions of the development.</p>
<p>B: Open Space Uses and Activities</p> <p><u>1. Meeting User Needs:</u> Plan the size, uses, activities, and features of each open space to meet the needs of expected users, ensuring each space has a purpose and function.</p> <p><u>2. Matching Uses to Conditions:</u> Respond to changing environmental conditions such as seasonal and daily light and weather shifts through open space design and/or programming of open space activities. For example, place outdoor seating and gathering areas where there is sunny exposure and shelter from wind. Build flexibility into the design in order to accommodate changes as needed; e.g. a south-facing courtyard that is ideal in spring may become too hot in summer, necessitating a shift of outdoor furniture to a shadier location for the season.</p> <p><u>3. Connections to Other Open Space:</u> Site and design project-related open spaces should connect with, or enhance, the uses and activities of other nearby public open space where appropriate. Look for opportunities to support uses and activities on adjacent properties and/or the sidewalk.</p> <p><u>4. Multifamily Open Space:</u> Design common and private open spaces in multifamily projects for use by all residents to encourage physical activity and social interaction. Some examples include areas for gardening, children’s play (covered and uncovered), barbeques, resident meetings, and crafts or hobbies.</p>
<p>C: Design</p> <p><u>1. Reinforce Existing Open Space:</u> Where a strong open space concept exists in the neighborhood, reinforce existing character and patterns of street tree planting, buffers or treatment of topographic changes. Where no strong patterns exist, initiate a strong open space concept, where appropriate, that other projects can build upon in the future.</p> <p><u>2. Amenities and Features:</u> Create attractive outdoor spaces well-suited to the uses envisioned for the project. Use a combination of hardscape and plantings to shape these spaces and to screen less attractive areas as needed. Use a variety of features, such as planters, green roofs and decks, groves of trees, and vertical green trellises along with more traditional foundation plantings, street trees, and seasonal displays.</p> <p><u>3. Support Natural Areas:</u> Create an open space design that retains and enhances on-site natural areas and connects to natural areas that may exist off-site and may provide habitat for wildlife. If the site contains no natural areas, consider an open space design that offers opportunities to create larger contiguous open spaces and corridors in the future with development of other public or private projects.</p>

⁵¹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines. 2013, p. 25-26)

Thornton Place: Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines

Thornton Place is within the Northgate Urban Center, which is part of the larger Northgate Overlay District. Design guidelines were first created for the Northgate Overlay District in 2003 and were then updated in 2010 and revised slightly in 2013 to better align with the citywide design guidelines. The 2013 version will hereby be referred to as the Northgate neighborhood design guidelines. In CS2: Urban Pattern and Form within the Northgate neighborhood design guidelines, it is suggested that corner lots implement streetscape elements such as “surface treatments, art, water features, landscaping, seating, and kiosks” to encourage “informal interaction...comfort, and interest within the public realm.”⁵²

In PL1, the use of open space and the creation of interior block pedestrian connections are also suggested for larger complexes like Thornton Place to help create a more human scale and to encourage walking. The design guidelines state that “the Northgate Plan places a high priority on open space, especially public spaces that are accessible, comfortable, and in proximity to or on routes to high activity areas.”⁵³ Thornton Place is indirectly recognized as a significant attraction for pedestrians, stating that “the Northgate Transit Center/future light rail station and the adjacent mixed-use transit-oriented development (TOD) with its urban plaza and access to the Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel are important pedestrian destinations.”⁵⁴ Also within PL1, they suggest creating interior block pedestrian connections that incorporate “integrated rainwater strategies such as rain gardens, natural drainage collection, building water collection and art”⁵⁵ to enhance the pedestrian experience.

Relatedly, due to the high level of impervious surface within the Northgate Urban Center, DC1 mentions design options that promote sustainable stormwater management.⁵⁶ DC3 mentions that implementing water features can help “gather enough people in and around these spaces so that they will overlap and spill in toward the center of the square.”⁵⁷

University Village: University Neighborhood Design Guidelines

The first version of the University Neighborhood Design Guidelines was adopted in 2000 and a revised version was released in 2013. University Village is within the University Urban

⁵² (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 2)

⁵³ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 7)

⁵⁴ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 8)

⁵⁵ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 9)

⁵⁶ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 16)

⁵⁷ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Northgate Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 22)

Center and the 2013 guidelines recognizes that “there is a severe lack of both public and private open space in the community,” making “small open spaces...that are visible or accessible to the public...an important part of the neighborhood’s vision.”⁵⁸ The DC3 section also notes that public plazas should include pedestrian-inviting amenities such as public art but does not mention the use of water features specifically.

Green Lake Village: Green Lake Neighborhood Design Guidelines

The first version of the Green Lake neighborhood design guidelines were adopted in 2001, with a revised version released in 2013 that better aligns with the citywide design guidelines. While they do not mention water specifically, orienting buildings towards Green Lake and offering views of Green Lake when possible is prioritized in the CS1 section.⁵⁹

Green Lake Village is within the “Residential Urban Village” of the Green Lake neighborhood. The northwest corner of Green Lake Village and the intersection a block to the west were both identified as one of nine “heart locations” in that they “serve as the perceived center of commercial and social activity.”⁶⁰

The Use of Design Guidelines

The 2013 Seattle Design Guidelines focus on three themes (Context and Site, Public Life, Design Concept), each with three to four underlying principles (see Table 1). The 2013 Seattle Design Guidelines go into detail outlining ideal practices for the principles, with “the overarching goal...to foster design excellence in private development of new multifamily and commercial projects throughout the city.” The citywide guidelines define one component of design excellence as “the project’s contribution to the public realm, not only in terms of the building itself but also in site development, landscape and public open space.”⁶¹ William H. Whyte argued in the 1970’s that “most incentive zoning ordinances are very, very specific as to what the developer gets. The trouble is that they are mushy as to what he is to give, and mushier yet as to what will happen if later he doesn’t. Vague stipulations, as many cities have learned, are unenforceable. What you do not prescribe quite explicitly, you do not get. Lack of guidelines does not give builders and architects more freedom. It reinforces convention.”

⁵⁸ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. University Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 18)

⁵⁹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Green Lake Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 1)

⁶⁰ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Green Lake Neighborhood Design Guidelines, 2013. p. 3)

⁶¹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines, 2013, p iii)

Methodology

Site Selection

The three public spaces with water features were each in different neighborhoods of Northeast Seattle. In choosing these sites, the most important consideration was that they were within a local community or urban center while also drawing members from outside the community by attractions nearby or onsite. Choosing locations in Northeast Seattle also made conducting the site visits more convenient as I live in the area. The neighborhoods surrounding each site have unique characteristics.

Across the three sites, there are some similarities beyond each having water features within public spaces. Whereas University Village is publicized as a mall and draws people from the Seattle region and beyond, Thornton Place is most well-known for its movie theater and also relies on visitors from Northgate Mall a block away. Green Lake Village is a smaller complex with a more local audience but does seem to draw some visitors from outside the neighborhood due to being near Green Lake. Green Lake Village and Thornton Place are both mixed-use complexes whose construction and design was managed by local development and real estate firm Lorig and Associates. The two complexes have the advantage of residents naturally using or walking through the public space along with visitors, whereas University Village is solely a commercial site and depends heavily upon its reputation as a well-maintained shopping mall with a variety of restaurant options to attract users.

Qualitative Observation Sessions

For each of the three chosen locations, ten hour-long qualitative observation sessions were conducted. The thirty observation sessions took place in summer of 2017 from mid-July to mid-August during the afternoon hours between 1pm and 5pm, as seen in Table 4. A potential weakness is that in some cases, observations were either done back-to-back on the same day or with multiple observations were done for one site within the same day.

For example, the last three sessions for University Village were completed in three continuous hours on the same afternoon. For Green Lake Village, the fourth and fifth observations were done on the same Saturday with an observation at another site in between the two. A similar situation occurred for the eighth and ninth observations for Green Lake Village. In these instances, some of the same subjects were studied across different sessions. To mitigate this flaw, each session was attempted to be objectively analyzed and seen as discrete sessions by

documenting the reoccurring subjects as new subjects and describing their interactions or actions as if they were new.

Table 4: Dates and Times of Observations

Session #	Location					
	University Village		Green Lake Village		Thornton Place	
	Day	Time	Day	Time	Day	Time
1	Tuesday	1:00-2:00	Friday	2:30-3:30	Friday	4:00-5:00
2	Thursday	4:00-5:00	Thursday	3:15-4:15	Tuesday	3:15-4:15
3	Sunday	3:00-4:00	Friday	3:30-4:30	Thursday	12:30-1:30
4	Thursday	1:50-2:50	Saturday	12:00-1:00	Friday	2:15-3:15
5	Friday	1:00-2:00	Saturday	2:30-3:30	Saturday	1:10-2:10
6	Saturday	3:45-4:45	Thursday	2:30-3:30	Thursday	3:45-4:45
7	Thursday	1:00-2:00	Friday	3:45-4:45	Friday	2:30-3:30
8	Friday	1:45-2:45	Saturday	12:30-1:30	Saturday	1:45-2:45
9	Friday	2:45-3:45	Saturday	3:00-4:00	Thursday	2:30-3:30
10	Friday	3:45-4:45	Thursday	3:45-4:45	Friday	12:00-1:00

In choosing days of the week for the observations, no efforts were made to distinguish between weekdays and weekend days or to evenly split observations between these two categories. The rationale for not initially distinguishing between Monday through Thursday and Friday through Sunday is that since it was summer, the schedules of the water features were likely to be consistent throughout the week compared to during the fall or winter and that traffic would be less variable between weekdays and weekends as summer schedules tend to allow for slightly more flexibility.

As seen from Table 5, nearly two thirds of all observations took place on weekend afternoons (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), with more than half of these weekend observations taking place specifically on Friday. For each location, six to seven observations happened during the weekend, whereas only three to four took place on weekdays. This bias towards the weekend was influenced by my personal availability to conduct observations and may cause the water features to seem more successful than in reality, since there was likely more traffic during the weekend. It is also important to note that the difference in subject characteristics between those who would frequent the public spaces during the week versus during the weekend may have influenced my findings.

Table 5: Analysis of Observation Times in Terms of Days of the Week

Time of Observation			Location			Total
			University Village	Green Lake Village	Thornton Place	
Time of the Week	Weekday	Tuesday	1	0	1	11
		Wednesday	0	0	0	
		Thursday	3	3	3	
	Weekend	Friday	4	3	4	19
		Saturday	1	4	2	
		Sunday	1	0	0	

While no effort was made to schedule observations at certain times of the afternoon, Table 6 shows how many sessions took place during the early afternoon hours (12:00-2:30pm) versus the late afternoon hours (2:30-5pm). Thornton Place and University Village had a balanced distribution between the early afternoon and the late afternoon, whereas a majority of the observations at Green Lake Village took place in the early afternoon.

Table 6: Analysis of Observation Times in Terms of Time of Afternoon

Time of Observation			Location			Total
			University Village	Green Lake Village	Thornton Place	
Time of Afternoon	Early	12:00-2:30	5	7	5	17
	Late	2:30-5:00	5	3	5	13

Data Collection

During each observation session, I sat near the water feature and took notes in a small journal (see Appendices E-G). I focused on describing people’s engagement level with the water feature as they passed, from no engagement to full engagement. With each person, I did my best to appropriately estimate and make note of the person’s race and/or ethnicity, gender, age, if they were alone or with a group, and their relationship with any other members of their group. In addition to taking notes, I also took pictures, using my phone, of people engaging with the water feature. I found this method of picture-taking to be the most conspicuous way to blend in to the situation as many parents or caretakers would stop to take pictures of their children, families, or friends with their phones, so my picture-taking seemed like a normal activity.

Recognizing my privilege in using this qualitative and anthropologic methodology without disrupting the environment is important. At each study site I sat alone, watching attentively and taking notes and pictures for an hour at a time. Sometimes I would get caught up

in the moment by smiling or laughing at an interaction. Other times children or parents would interact with me and I would politely respond and have a short conversation. After these types of encounters, while a parent or caretaker would sometimes give an inquisitive look, I was never approached or asked direct questions by users of the public space about my purpose or intention. Being a white female, I was more easily able to be accepted as normal and non-threatening by others as I conducted my observations. I felt pressured to dress a certain way depending on which site I was going to so that I would more easily fit in.

Use of Matthews' Adapted Rubric and Analysis Methodology

The main tool for comparative analysis between the three chosen sites for this study was Matthews' 2011 qualitative rubric that evaluated how successfully water features in public spaces incorporated the values of aesthetics, wellness, and sustainability in their design, use, and surroundings. She defined these three values in her rubric, with questions around aesthetics "used in reference to visual perceptions and impressions; clarity relating to landscape architecture," and questions around wellness considered in "how people are influenced; contributing qualities that are enriching and positive," and questions around sustainability "addressing the creation and existence of presented water features within urban public space."⁶² In addition to providing narrative answers to the questions, Matthews used a five-point scale from 0 to 4, with 0 meaning "Not at All" and 4 meaning "Absolutely" to assign quantitative ratings or scores to each question. This five-point scale was also used in my adapted rubrics, which can be found in Appendices B-D. After the ten site visits at each location were complete, I spent time reflecting on my notes and photographs before using the adapted rubrics to assign scores to each of the questions. I also came up with qualitative responses explaining the rationale behind each score (see Tables 10-15).

The values of aesthetics and wellness were important in my analysis, but as this thesis study is less focused on the ecological aspect of the water feature designs, the evaluation of the value of sustainability was not included in my adapted version of Matthews' rubric. Matthews' original rubric (see Table 8 or Appendix A) included questions surrounding sustainability such as the performance and environmental intention of the feature as well as the water quality. I felt that these topics were not immediately relevant to my focus and therefore not necessary to

⁶² (Matthews 2011, p. 38)

include in the analysis of the three studied water features and their surrounding sites. My thesis also differs from Matthews’ thesis in that her focus was on water features located within parks—well-defined public spaces—whereas the water features I studied were rare refuges of public space situated within mixed-use or commercial spaces that are privately-managed. Therefore, one of the questions from the Delight quality in Matthews’ original rubric that asked “do the nearby vistas/views enhance the site?” was removed from the adapted rubric used in this study. Whereas parks typically do try to capitalize on certain views, none of the three studied sites were designed in a way that allowed users to see nearby views or vistas.

Each of Matthews’ values had two related actions, defined as “what the qualities do; why they are important in the success of a site.” Each action had two related qualities, which Matthews defined as “what the designer sets out to do; attributes that make up the values” (see Table 7 below). Each quality had two to four related questions that were a “means of exploring and assessing the presences/incorporation” of a quality in a site (see Table 8).⁶³

Table 7: Definitions of Qualities within the Aesthetics and Wellness Values

Value	AESTHETICS	
Actions	Pull	Engagement
Qualities	<i>Visibility</i> “Visibility is characterized by recognizable entrances, obvious uses of amenities, and an inviting area surrounding the water feature.”	<i>Understanding</i> “The quality of understanding is made up of an engaging visual quality, appropriate context of the water feature in a safe and comfortable environment and resonance.”
	<i>Focus</i> “Focus includes a choice of involvement with the water and places to sit, being able to see other users of the site, and having something worth looking at.”	<i>Delight</i> “Delight is characterized by attractive (moving or still) water, the balance of novelty and familiarity, options for different views, and nearby vistas or views enhancing the site.”
Value	WELLNESS	
Actions	Interaction	Benefit
Qualities	<i>Access</i> “Access includes the physical accessibility of the water—whether it can be touched, and options for people with varied mobility to enjoy the water feature.”	<i>Sensory Experience</i> “The quality of sensory experience is made up of the water and the water feature being able to be felt in the air, heard, and smelled.”
	<i>Contact</i> “Contact is characterized by the ability to choose a view, that the intended use of the water feature invites contact, and that there is a likelihood of interaction with other people.”	<i>Immersion</i> “Immersion includes contributing to the atmosphere of being elsewhere, integrated vegetation, reliability of the feature, and people engaged with the site.”

Source: Matthews 2011, p. 100 and p. 102.

⁶³ (Matthews 2011, p. 33)

The relationship between the values, actions, and qualities in Matthews’ original rubric and the adapted rubric can be seen in Tables 8 or 9 as well as Appendices A-D. Tables 8 and 9 show only the questions used in Matthews’ original rubric and my adapted rubric, without ratings, whereas Appendix A shows the original rubric with the ratings column included and Appendices B-D show the adapted rubric with associated scoring for each of the three sites.

Figure 6 below helps illustrate these differences between Matthews’ original rubric (Table 8) and the adapted rubric used in this thesis (Table 9). While Matthews’ thesis analyzed ten different sites and created the basis for my adapted rubric, my methodology is more robust as it looks at the effectiveness and impact of the water features through a more holistic lens of urban planning and public administration rather than solely landscape architecture. This study digs deeper into the analysis of site users, water feature users, and the context of the surrounding neighborhood. Secondly, while Matthews’ main findings impact general design theory, the intended outcome of this thesis is to impact the City of Seattle’s Design Guidelines process. By analyzing trade-offs and providing specific design guideline policy recommendations, it is more likely that this thesis can positively influence the design and implementation of water features within privately-managed public spaces in Seattle and elsewhere.

Figure 6: Venn Diagram Comparing Matthews’ and Hoerr’s Methodology

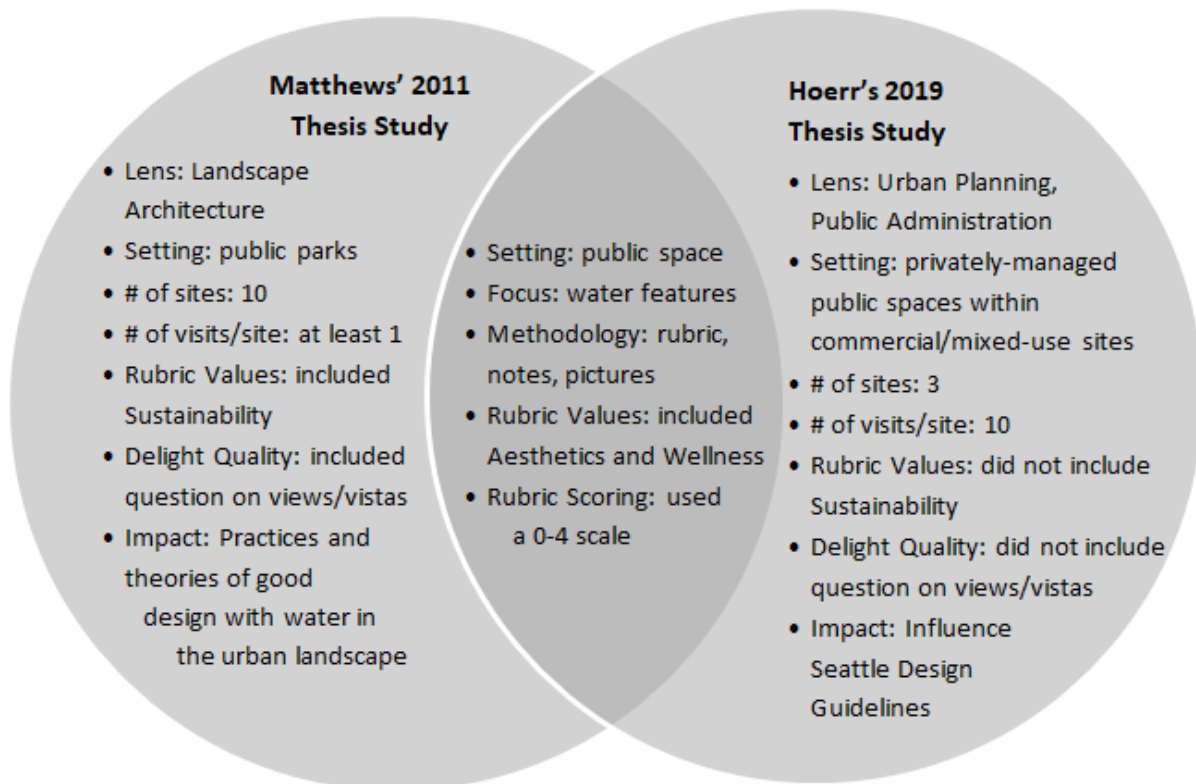


Table 8: Matthews' Original Rubric

Value	AESTHETICS	
Actions	Pull	Engagement
Qualities	Visibility	Understanding
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable? • Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious? • Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting? • Is the water feature compelling? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging? • Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions? • Does the water feature area feel safe? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.)
Qualities	Focus	Delight
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there choices of activity/level of involvement? • Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger? • Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site? • Is there something worth looking at? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water? • Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity? • Are there different experiences and views available from different vantage points? • Do the nearby vistas/views enhance the site?
Value	WELLNESS	
Actions	Interaction	Benefit
Qualities	Access	Sensory Experience
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt? • Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water be felt in the air? • Can the water feature be heard? • If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?
Qualities	Contact	Immersion
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water? • Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water? • Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere? • Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area? • Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?
Value	SUSTAINABILITY	
Actions	Function	Impact
Qualities	Performance	Aquatic Health
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water for the feature come from a sustainable source, or is it recirculating? • Is there a visible process and awareness of accessing water for site use? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water quality improved through contact with the feature/site? • OR Are water treatment processes used for desirable and beneficial end-use? • Is there integrated stormwater management? <p>Does there appear to be monitoring of the water feature's intended function?</p>
Qualities	Intention	Relevance
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the design and inclusion of water suggest an integrated urban and ecological function? • Does it seem likely that the site has long-term viability? • Does the water feature appear well maintained? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there efforts to connect with habitat and green opportunities of the surrounding area? • Is there an educational component to the use of water? • Is there recognition/award as an indicator of success?

Source: Matthews 2011, pp 34-35.

Table 9: Matthews' Adapted Rubric Used in this Thesis

Value	AESTHETICS	
Actions	Pull	Engagement
Qualities	<i>Visibility</i>	<i>Understanding</i>
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable? • Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious? • Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting? • Is the water feature compelling? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging? • Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions? • Does the water feature area feel safe? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.)
Qualities	<i>Focus</i>	<i>Delight</i>
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there choices of activity/level of involvement? • Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger? • Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site? • Is there something worth looking at? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water? • Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity? • Are there different experiences and views available from different vantage points?
Value	WELLNESS	
Actions	Interaction	Benefit
Qualities	<i>Access</i>	<i>Sensory Experience</i>
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt? • Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water be felt in the air? • Can the water feature be heard? • If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?
Qualities	<i>Contact</i>	<i>Immersion</i>
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water? • Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water? • Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere? • Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area? • Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?

Source: Adapted from Matthews 2011, pp 34-35.

Limitations

While the methodology and findings of this thesis study offer meaningful contributions to the use of design guidelines and the design of water features in public spaces, there are several areas of limitation. It is important to note that all three sites were studied during the summer months in Seattle, a time when they are more likely to have a higher number of site users and higher levels of engagement compared to other times of the year that have more frequent rainfall.

While Thornton Place did not seem to be as crowded during the site observations compared to the other sites, this may be due to the fact that one of the site's main attractions, the movie theater, is more likely to attract users at night. The site observations took place during the afternoon and early evening, so it is possible Thornton Place has more successful engagement at nighttime. The timing of the site observations may have also had an impact on the age of site users and water feature users. Families and retirees are generally more likely to be present at a site during the daytime, whereas teenagers, young adults, and the working class are more likely to be present at a site during the evening and nighttime hours.

All three study sites were located within Northeast Seattle, which while providing one level of consistency between the three sites, limited the ability for a deeper equity and/or accessibility analysis that could have been gained through studying sites with water features throughout different regions of the City of Seattle. While all three sites are privately-managed public spaces, University Village may have had an advantage or disadvantage by being a solely commercial site, whereas Green Lake Village and Thornton Place were both mixed-use residential and commercial sites. Whether or not University Village had an advantage or disadvantage could have been explored by adding a fourth site that was also solely commercial.

Findings

The results and analysis of the ten qualitative observations done at each site along with the adapted rubric evaluations are separated into the following sections:

- Assessment: Answering Questions and Explaining Ratings
- Comparative Rubric Results
 - Aesthetics Value Framework and Qualities
 - Wellness Value Framework and Qualities
- Individual Site Discussions
 - University Village
 - Green Lake Village
 - Thornton Place
- Neighborhood Demographics vs. Site User Demographics
- Demographics of Water User Features
- Levels of Engagement vs. Quality of Engagement
- Overall Site Design vs. Success of Water Feature

Assessment: Answering Questions and Explaining Ratings

Tables 10-15 shown in the following pages summarize my findings from each of the three sites using Matthews' adapted rubric and rating method, which used a scale from 0-4 to answer each question. Similar to Matthews' methodology, after the ten site visits at each location were complete, I spent time reflecting on my observational notes and photographs. I then used the adapted rubric to assign scores to each of the questions and provide a short explanation as to why the question received the particular score.

Table 10: University Village Findings—Aesthetics Value

Value: Aesthetics	
Action: Pull	<p>Quality: Visibility (average: 3.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable? [2] The 1,850 square feet site itself is small compared to the 24-acre commercial site within which it sits. The site is open and the lack of distinct borders allows for entry anywhere along the two sidewalks that flank the northern and southern sides of the site. So while the site is visible to passersby, it may not be well-recognized as an opportunity for engagement for all due to its small size, lack of signage, and orientation towards children in the design of the water feature.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious? [4] The site is relatively simple, which makes it easy for people to understand its intended use. Several table-and-chair sets as well as a bench are available for seating and the water feature space allows for up to eight or so children to play comfortably.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting? [4] While there are a handful of shops surrounding the water feature, it is still an inviting area. Beyond the immediate site’s seating options, there are more table-and-chair sets that are still within close-enough range to supervise children using the water feature.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water feature compelling? [4] The unique water feature consists of small frog and turtle sculptures sitting on rocks that spray water alternatively in an arch in a playful pattern. With the seemingly unpredictable timing of the water sprays, people engaging with the water feature often enjoyed figuring out the pattern.
	<p>Quality: Focus (average: 4.0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there choices of activity/level of involvement? [4] While the water feature only has one function, those who engaged with the water feature were able to participate in a variety of ways. Some stood/sat along the edges of the sculptures and just got a little wet by the sprays, others intervened and changed the direction of the spray or stopped the spray, and braver users crawled/crouched under the sprays. Children would often use their imagination and create dialogue between the frog and turtle sculptures.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger? [4] There were several seating options available directly surrounding the site and nearby. When all seating options were taken, people would stand near the water feature as they watched their children or family members engage with the water feature. Passersby felt comfortable lingering in front of stores or in the sidewalk area to watch interactions among users of the water feature.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site? [4] The site was rarely empty during my observation sessions; there always seemed to be some activity, even if people were sitting near the water feature and passively watching from afar.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there something worth looking at? [4] The use of turtle and frog sculptures helps animate the water feature and make it more relatable, especially to children. The changing pattern of spraying water also makes the water feature captivating to users and passersby.

Action: Engagement	Quality: Understanding (average: 3.3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety, of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging? [3] The site does a good job in striking a balance between consistency and character in terms of seating, landscaping, pathway, and storefront design. This holistic attention to detail and the creation of a human scale feel to the site help engage the user throughout the complex.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions? [4] The placement of the child-oriented water feature seems appropriate as there is an enclosed playground about 100 feet from the water feature and several children’s stores nearby.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature area feel safe? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.) [3] University Village strives to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere through the use of human-scale lighting, a plethora of seating areas, pedestrian thoroughfares, and meticulously maintained landscaping. However, the space sometimes seems cramped as it is less than forty feet in width between the two buildings. It could also have better vantage points and lighting for nighttime engagement with the water feature.
	Quality: Delight (average: 3.3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water? [4] The water sprays out of the frogs’ and turtles’ mouths in an arching fashion that is large enough for children to climb under.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity? [4] The water feature displays a consistent but delightful pattern of spraying between the animals that users of all ages enjoy. After a few rounds of watching, older children can typically figure out the pattern. • Are there different experiences/views available from different vantage points? [2] Users of the space can see the water feature from different seating options, and users of the water feature can have slightly different vantage points depending on whether they climb the small rocks of the water feature. However, overall the site is flat and landscaped in such a way that there are limited opportunities for different experiences from different levels or vantage points.

Table 11: University Village Findings—Wellness Value

Value: Wellness	
Action: Interaction	Quality: Access (average: 3.5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt? [4] The water is very easily accessible and since there are multiple sprayers, the water can be felt by multiple users at once. • Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature? [3] The water feature area is level with the rest of the site, so on several occasions children or adults that were physically handicapped in some way were able to touch the water and interact with other users. However, because there is little space between the rocks, users with larger wheelchairs were unable to walk freely through the whole water feature.
	Quality: Contact (average: 3.7)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water? [3] Yes, there were several seating options available that allowed users to see the water.

Action: Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water? [4] Yes, the sculptor of the water feature has said that her goal with her art is to “invite an interaction with its audience.”⁶⁴
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people? [4] Yes, due to the popularity of both the water feature itself and University Village as a whole, the site was very rarely empty. The frequent traffic through the site allowed users to interact with each other in a variety of ways, whether it was through understanding glances among caretakers, children inviting each other to play games, or small conversations between users and passersby.
	Quality: Sensory Experience (average: 3.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water be felt in the air? [4] The water sprayed from the animal sculptures in an arching fashion, allowing users to feel the water in the air. The spraying water also splashed onto the rocks upon which the sculptures sat, creating another way for water to be felt in the air.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water feature be heard? [3] The spraying water and the splashing of the water, along with the delight in children’s voices as they played could all be heard within close proximity to the site. However, because University Village’s popularity, from further away it could be difficult to hear the water feature and/or the activity around it because of the noise from other users’ conversations and nearby car traffic.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is a detectable smell, is it of water? [2] There was only a slightly detectable smell of water when one was close to the water feature.
	Quality: Immersion (average: 3.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere? [2] The surrounding stores and passersby helped to remind users that they were in a shopping area. However, children may have been able to feel as if they were elsewhere due to the imaginative and playful quality of the water feature.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area? [3] Landscaped gardens with trees to the east and west of the water feature help separate the water feature from a main pedestrian pathway and an inner street nearby. A light pole near the space has planters with overflowing flowers. This landscaping is part of the overall design of the shopping complex and the planted areas do not appear to have been specifically implemented as part of the water feature area’s design.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use? [4] The water feature was active during every observation and some users came prepared to use the space, such as caretakers who brought an extra set of clothes or a swimsuit for their children. There were several instances where users from a previous observation session were seen at a different observation session, so it is clear that some users depend upon the site regularly as an entertaining activity.

⁶⁴ (Gerber 2004)

Table 12: Green Lake Village—Aesthetics Value

Value: Aesthetics	
Action: Pull	<p>Quality: Visibility (average: 2.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable? [2]</p> <p>There are four main entrances to the site, and the water feature space is only immediately visible from two of the three entrances. From the north, there is a large set of stairs that come down to the site from NE 72nd St, where the site cannot be seen from the sidewalk. There is also a staircase leading to the site from the underground parking garage that enters the site directly to the north of the PCC entry doors. From the west, one can access the space from Woodlawn Ave NE through a more than 200 feet-long pedestrian pathway that cuts through two of the block’s mixed-use buildings, but the site is not easily recognizable from the street entrance. From the south, there is a small set of stairs or a ramp from NE 71st St, and users can easily see the space from the sidewalk.</p> <p>Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious? [3]</p> <p>Store signage and clear pathways help users navigate the space. There are a variety of seating types available, making different uses of the site possible, including meeting friends for a snack or meal, lounging in the sun, reading a book, or taking a break between errands.</p> <p>Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting? [3]</p> <p>A plethora of seating options and human-scale landscaping and other design elements help the awkward T-shaped space surrounded by four-story buildings seem more inviting.</p> <p>Is the water feature compelling? [2]</p> <p>The water feature consists of five benches placed in between pedestrian pathways that have water flowing across them from one end to the other, with water cascading down the short distance to the ground. The close proximity to passersby helps enhance its use, but the water feature is often overlooked or barely engaged with by passersby.</p>
	<p>Quality: Focus (average: 3.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Are there choices of activity/level of involvement? [3]</p> <p>Users can choose between passively viewing the water feature from a variety of seating options, directly engaging in the water feature through simply touching the water, splashing the water, or sitting on the waterfall benches.</p> <p>Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger? [4]</p> <p>There are many places immediately visible and available to users, including traditional table-and-chair sets near three different eating option, wooden benches with different levels and seating arrangements, or the water feature itself.</p> <p>Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site? [4]</p> <p>The site was well-trafficked due to the assortment of stores nearby, including a grocery store, a café, and a frozen yogurt store that helped attract a diverse group of users.</p> <p>Is there something worth looking at? [3]</p> <p>The water feature is centered between the different seating options and meant to be an engaging piece for those sitting nearby, but the site was interesting in terms of people-watching.</p>

Action: Engagement	Quality: Understanding (average: 2.7)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety, of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging? [2] Human-scale seating, landscaping, and lighting help engage the user in the space and distract from the towering surrounding buildings. However, the human-scale elements do not relieve the site of the shading and the wind tunnel created by the surrounding buildings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions? [2] In some ways the water feature felt squished between the two buildings, making it seem as if it was an afterthought addition that had to conform to the remaining open space rather than being integrated into the design of the open space from the beginning.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature area feel safe? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.) [4] With multiple entrances, human scale design features, and multiple light features, the area does feel safe and comfortable.
	Quality: Delight (average: 2.7)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water? [4] The gentle cascade of the water from the top of the benches to the ground below was enticing but not too distracting to users.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity? [2] The flow of water is consistent and does not have many aspects of novelty.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there different experiences/views available from different vantage points? [2] Users of the space can see the water feature from different seating options, and users of the water feature can have slightly different vantage points depending on whether they climb the small rocks of the water feature. However, overall the site is flat and landscaped in such a way that there are limited opportunities for different experiences from different levels or vantage points.

Table 13: Green Lake Village Findings—Wellness Value

Value: Wellness	
Action: Interaction	Quality: Access (average: 3.5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt? [4] Yes, the water was physically accessible to both passersby who wanted to just quickly touch the water as well as users who wanted to play.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature? [3] Because the waterfall benches were on the same level as the rest of the site, users of varied mobility could access and touch the water feature. Multiple times, people on bikes dipped their feet in as the rode through the space. However, because the space between the benches was sometimes small, users in wheelchairs might have difficulty experiencing the whole site.
	Quality: Contact (average: 3.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water? [3] There are many opportunities to choose a view near the water due to the number of seating options available.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water? [3] Yes, the water feature is easily accessible and since the bench form of the water feature invites users to engage with the benches.
Action: Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people? [3] The water feature area is in between two thinner pedestrian pathways that are bordered on the outside by seating areas, so opportunities for passive interaction between other people were abundant but were only sometimes acted on. Children and sometimes adults who played in or engaged with the water feature tended to have more meaningful interactions.
	Quality: Sensory Experience (average: 1.3)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water be felt in the air? [1] The only way users could feel the water in the air was from the water falling down from the benches to the ground or from the small splash the water created near the ground. Overall, the water feature was very contained within its intended space.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water feature be heard? [2] The water can be heard slightly only when one was close to the water.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is a detectable smell, is it of water? [1] There was barely a noticeable smell of water when one was close to the water.
	Quality: Immersion (average: 2.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere? [1] The branding of the stores around the water feature help solidify the fact that users are in a shopping area. The design of the water feature also does not help transform the space to suggest to users that they are elsewhere.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area? [2] Several smaller, human-scale trees are near the benches, as well as potted plants in the periphery, but they are not well-integrated into the site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use? [3] The water feature was always on when I visited the site and people did seem to visit the site purposefully to play in the water. 	

Table 14: Thornton Place Findings—Aesthetics Value

Value: Aesthetics	
Action: Pull	Quality: Visibility (average: 2.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable? [2] The larger plaza is surrounded by six-story buildings and passersby walking along NE 103rd Ave NE or 3rd Ave NE would not be able to see much of the plaza as they pass by the three main pedestrian entrances. There are also several access points to the plaza from the parking garage below the plaza. When one enters the main plaza from these entrances and access points, the courtyard where the water feature is located is visible, but the courtyard may not be immediately recognizable to new users of the site traveling along the exterior perimeter of the buildings.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious? [2] While there are many seats available throughout the site and some wayfinding signs near entrances can help direct users, the site could be better designed so that users are more immediately aware of opportunities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting? [2] There are moveable tables and chairs somewhat near the water feature, but the stark sculptural quality of the water feature makes it somewhat uninviting to potential users.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water feature compelling? [2] The water feature is a fountain that sprays at different levels of intensity outward towards a circle of smaller fountains. The change in flow is somewhat enticing but the uninviting design takes away from it being more compelling.
	Quality: Focus (average: 3.5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there choices of activity/level of involvement? [3] With a plethora of seating options as well as a large-scale chess board near the water feature, there are a variety of choices for users in terms of their level of engagement. Users of the water feature can also choose how involved they get, from dipping their feet in the water stream as they walk by or running through/underneath the water stream and climbing on the separate water fountain sprayers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger? [4] There are many places available to sit, including sets of tables and chairs and a variety of benches, throughout the site, that allow people to enjoy the space and “people watch” from different viewpoints.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site? [4] It is clear that people who work at the shops nearby or who live in the apartments nearby appreciate having a public space, as there were usually always a number of other people present at the site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there something worth looking at? [3] While the water feature could have a more accessible and less harsh design, the lull of the changing water streams and a steady stream of other users provide one with something to watch throughout their time at the site.

Action: Engagement	Quality: Understanding (average: 2.0)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety, of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging? [2] Elements of the surrounding site can at times contribute to a sense of disjointedness due to the variety of design choices used between seating options and between the space and the surrounding buildings and storefronts.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions? [1] While the water feature is near two major entries to the overall site, the placement of the water feature seems to be somewhat of an afterthought. It could have attracted more users if it was placed in the center of the site, acting as the main attraction rather than off to the side.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature area feel safe? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.) [3] The space is open with good lines of sight and has adequate separation between the pedestrian public space and the thoroughfare for cars so that users feel safe.
	Quality: Delight (average: 2.7)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water? [2] There is an interesting moment when the outer sprays of water come together and meet at the center over the center fountain, and there is a pattern to the timing of the sprayers but it is not as elaborate or attractive as it could be.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity? [3] The height of the water sprayers changes from small to large in about a three minute loop, which encourages curiosity at first and then play once users understand the pattern.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there different experiences & views available from different vantage points? [3] In addition to the water feature, users of the site also had access to a human-scale chess board in close proximity, a comfortable amount of open space for children or other users to run around safely, as well as a somewhat reliable fire pit surrounded by some Adirondack chairs a bit further from the fountain.

Table 15: Thornton Place Findings—Wellness Value

Value: Wellness		
Action: Interaction	<p>Quality: Access (average: 2.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt? [3] Users can easily walk up to the fountain and can touch the water, as well as being able to choose a variety of ways to interact with the water. • Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature? [2] While there is a slight slope up to the water feature from the surrounding brick walkway, it was enough of a slope to cause some falls for younger users trying to play in the water. Most elderly users were able to walk up to the water feature comfortably, although sometimes the slippery surface of the bricks made it a more precarious situation. 	
	<p>Quality: Contact (average: 3.0)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water? [4] There are many seating options throughout the site that allow one to have a view of the water feature while being in close proximity to it. • Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water? [3] The intended use of the feature does invite human contact with the water as it is built at a human-scale and with enough space between the sprayers for people to move through the water feature easily. • Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people? [2] While it is likely that other people will be present at the site, the water feature is not used frequently enough that interaction with other people while engaging with the water feature is likely. 	
	<p>Quality: Sensory Experience (average: 2.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can the water be felt in the air? [2] The spray of the water is confined to the borders of the water feature. • Can the water feature be heard? [4] Since the space is surrounded by taller mixed-use buildings, the sound of the water can easily be heard throughout the site. • If there is a detectable smell, is it of water? [1] During most of my observations, I did not notice a detectable smell of water. 	
	<p>Quality: Immersion (average: 1.7)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere? [1] The water feature’s design does not do much to help one feel as if they are in a place other than a plaza surrounded by mixed-use buildings. • Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area? [1] Around the borders of the plaza, there are planter boxes with flowers and shrubs as well as a few small trees scattered throughout the site. However, the planted areas are quite separated from the water feature area. • Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use? [3] Although the water feature was turned off during one of my first observations, the rest of the time, the water feature was always active. During the summer months, the fountain is turned on at times that would make it mostly reliable for regular or repeated use. 	

Comparative Rubric Results

This section compares how the sites performed in relation to each other in terms of the Aesthetics value framework and the Wellness value framework. Table 16 shows both the average ratings for each quality's question scores as well as individual question scores, while Figure 7 shows a more visual representation of how each site performed in terms of the adapted rubric.

Table 16: Comparative Rubric Results between Study Sites

		Value: Aesthetics				Value: Wellness			
		Action: Pull		Action: Engagement		Action: Interaction		Action: Benefit	
		Qualities		Qualities		Qualities		Qualities	
		Visibility	Focus	Understanding	Delight	Access	Contact	Sensory Exp.	Immersion
University Village	average ratings	3.5	4.0	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.0	3.0
	question ratings	2/4/4/4	4/4/4/4	3/4/3	4/4/2	4/3	3/4/4	4/3/2	2/3/4
Green Lake Village	average ratings	2.5	3.5	2.7	2.7	3.5	3.0	1.3	2.0
	question ratings	2/3/3/2	3/4/4/3	2/2/4	4/2/2	4/3	3/3/3	1/2/1	1/2/3
Thornton Place	average ratings	2.0	3.5	2.0	2.7	2.5	3.0	2.3	1.7
	question ratings	2/2/2/2	3/4/4/3	2/1/3	2/3/3	3/2	4/3/2	2/4/1	1/1/3
Key	Scale	Color	Interpretation						
	0.0-1.9		Below average						
	2.0-2.9		Average						
	3.0-4.0		Exceeds expectation						

Source: Author.

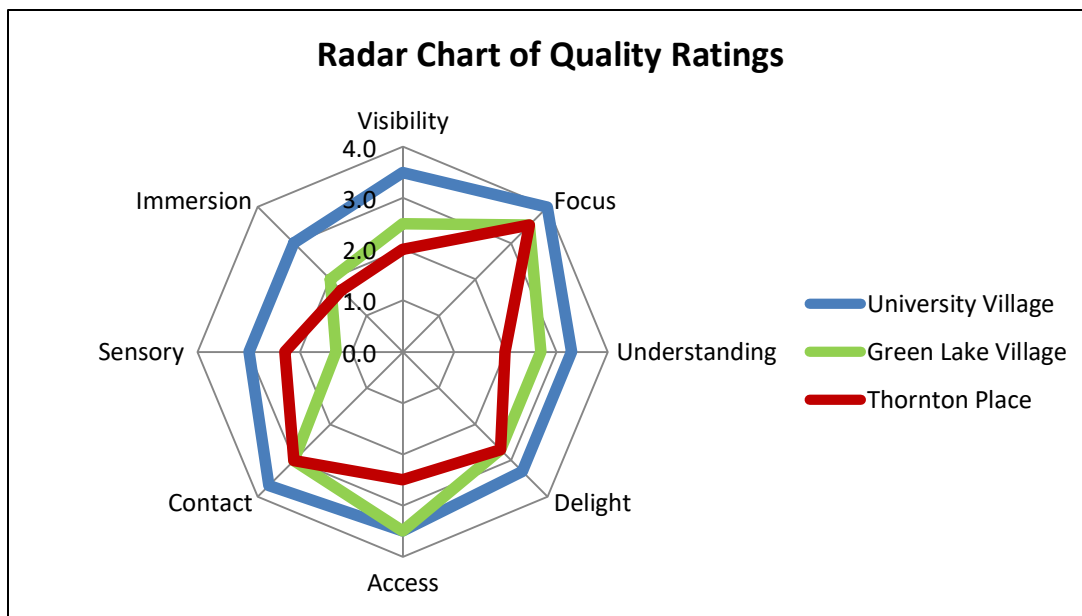


Figure 7: Radar Chart of Quality Ratings for Study Sites. Source: Author.

Aesthetics Value Framework and Qualities

The Aesthetics value framework focuses on how users are pulled into the site and/or the water feature itself, exploring the impact of overall site design on how the public uses the space. While all three sites had high average scores for the Focus quality, which looks at how easily users are drawn into engaging with the site, University Village was the only site to receive a perfect average score of 4 for every question of the Focus quality, which asks:

- “Are there choices of activity/level of involvement?”
- “Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger?”
- “Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site?”
- “Is there something worth looking at?”

Although the small site is sandwiched between two rows of stores and pedestrian pathways on either side, the consistent amount of surrounding pedestrian activity, the water feature’s unique design, the different levels of opportunities for engagement, and a plethora of seating in the vicinity together create an overall comfortable environment within University Village that encourages users to stop and stay a while (see Figure 8). Thornton Place and Green Lake Village had matching ratings for the Focus quality, each scoring 3, 4, 4, and 3 for the questions.



Figure 8: The high traffic and close proximity of users at University Village in turn attracts more users.

As shown in Figure 7, all three sites scored similarly across the rest of the Aesthetics framework’s qualities (Visibility, Understanding, and Delight), with University Village having average scores between 3.3-3.5, Green Lake Village having average scores between 2.5-2.7, and Thornton Place having average scores between 2.0-2.7. While all three sites are similar in that users may venture into the space in order to access certain commercial amenities, Thornton Place

likely received the weakest average scores due to being surrounded by six-story mixed-use buildings, making it difficult for users on the periphery to be drawn into the site if they were not already planning on entering the site. While Green Lake Village's open space is also surrounded by six-story mixed-use buildings, pedestrian entry points into the space provide more interesting vantage points and are human-scale, creating a more inviting environment than Thornton Place.

Wellness Value Framework and Qualities

The Wellness value framework focuses on how users interact with the water feature and what benefits users gain from that interaction. All three sites scored an average of 3.0 or above on the Contact quality, which explores how easily users can engage both with the water and each other. The Focus quality is the only other time all three sites scored an average of 3.0 or above.

The Contact questions are influential to this paper's policy recommendations and ask:

- "Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water?"
- "Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water?"
- "Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people?"⁶⁵

The first of Matthews' Contact questions—which looks into how sites provide a variety of seating choices, not just in general, but particularly near the water—blends Whyte's theories on the importance of allowing users to have choices in a public space and Matthews' focus on whether the presence of water influences the success of a space. Throughout the three sites, it was clear that the designers of the water features made conscious decisions to give users options in terms of type of seating and their proximity to the water feature. Scoring a 3 in the first Contact question, Green Lake Village had a typical table and chair seating available directly outside of PCC as well as near the other commercial entities. In addition, wide wooden benches with several levels allowed a mix of seating arrangements, along with one marble bench without water at the end of the five marble benches with water. This seating arrangement provided a sort of cocoon around the water feature so that many users could enjoy being near the water feature and watching others engage with the water feature. However, Thornton Place scored a perfect score of 4 in the first Contact question due to the flexibility users had to move tables and chairs in the larger open space around the fountain compared to the close quarters of Green Lake Village. University Village faced similar space constraints and also received a score of 3.

⁶⁵ (Matthews 2011, p. 35)

The second Contact question references the water feature’s design and installation as well as its intended use. While some public spaces with water features include signage or physical barriers that preclude users from engaging with the water, none of the studied sites had such signage and all three water features were designed and monitored in ways that invited human contact with the water. University Village received a perfect score of 4 due to the imaginative and endearing design of the animal sculptures that sprayed water, inviting not only users of any age to engage but especially children. Green Lake Village and Thornton Place received scores of 3 due to their more stereotypical and slightly harsher design aesthetics of their water features. The use of benches as a design for a water feature at Green Lake Village at first seems inviting since users can recognize benches as something to sit on, but most users seemed to be confused.

The third Contact question regarding the likelihood of interaction with people is the main focus of this thesis study. Thornton Place received a score of 2 due to limited sightings of high quality interactions among users compared to the other two sites. This may be due to the largeness of the open space surrounding the water feature. At Green Lake Village and University Village, pedestrians just passing through the site using the two main sidewalks had to walk in close proximity to the water feature, possibly changing their minds on whether or not they were going to engage with the feature in some way. Figure 9 shows two different groups of users at University Village stopping along the sidewalk near the water feature to chat while children actively engage with the water feature. Alternatively, at Thornton Place, there were many different paths users could take to get from one side of the plaza to the other, including paths that avoid the water feature altogether. The amount of space available also made it less likely that users who cross paths would interact in a meaningful way.



Figure 9: Left—Two different groups in close proximity at University Village. Right—At Thornton Place, three distinct groups were able to situate themselves with considerable space between them.

With an average score of 1.3, the Green Lake Village’s Sensory Experience quality score was one of the two lowest average scores overall (see Figure 10). Part of the Benefit action, the Sensory Experience quality set of questions look into specific details on the way water impacts users in terms of three of the five senses: feeling, hearing, and smell of water. Matthews’ first Sensory Experience question asks if users can feel the water in the air. The flow of water at Green Lake Village from the top of short benches to the ground below provided limited opportunities for the water to spray or mist through the air like it would at a bigger fountain such as Thornton Place. The limited freedom of the water flow and usually high level of pedestrian traffic also made it difficult for users to hear or smell the water without being in close proximity.

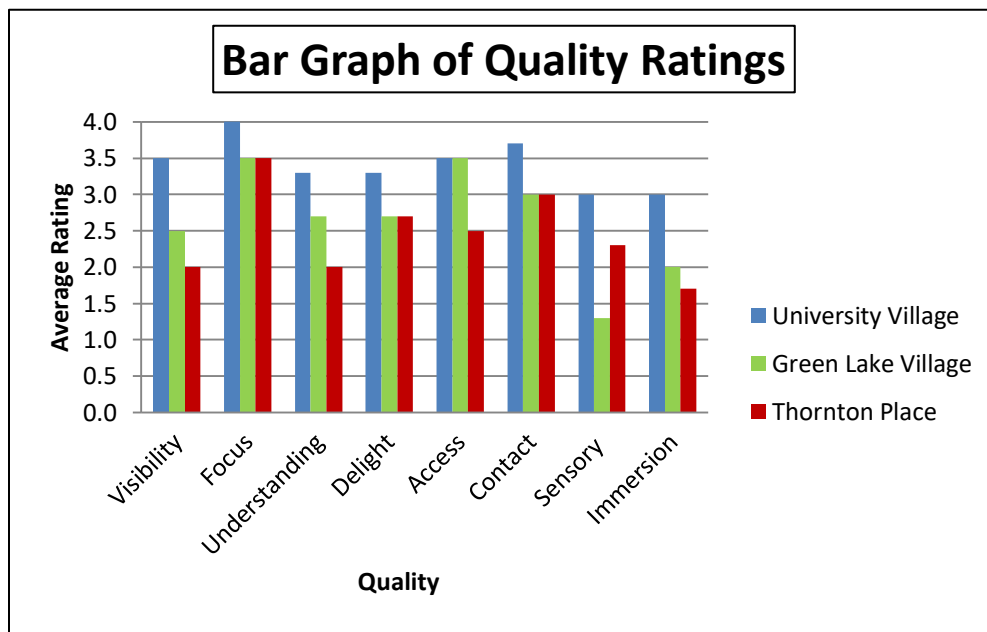


Figure 10: Bar Graph of Quality Ratings for Study Sites. Source: Author.

As seen in Figure 10, Thornton Place received the second lowest average score across all qualities with a score of 1.7 for its Immersion quality. Part of the Benefit action, being immersed in a site for Matthews plays into ideas of urban escapism. The Immersion questions investigate how the site and the water feature work together or complement one another, asking:

- “Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere?”
- “Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area?”, and
- “Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?”⁶⁶

⁶⁶ (Matthews 2011, p. 35)

Matthews’ use of the first question is more suited to her specific study of public parks where the water feature is part of a larger setting that contributes to an atmosphere of being elsewhere, whereas the three sites here are within commercial/mixed-use settings. Still, the first question provides insight on the water feature design. Thornton Place received a low score for this question due to a fairly stereotypical urban water fountain design that does not play into one’s imagination. Despite comparatively better water feature designs, Green Lake Village and University Village did not score well in the first question either, but they scored higher in the second question. While all three sites lack vegetation directly integrated into the water feature and instead vegetation is confined to distinct planted areas, Thornton Place received the lowest score for the second question from the sheer amount of space between the vegetation and the water fountain. Whereas at Green Lake Village and University Village, the nearby trees are close enough to provide shade to the water feature area, this is not the case at Thornton Place where the closest tree is more than 25 feet away.

All three sites had their lowest average quality scores in either one or both of the Sensory and Immersion quality, which are both part of the Benefit action. All three sites have room for improvement regarding the way water affects the users’ five senses and the way the site design complements the water feature. Some of the policy recommendations will focus on strategies to address this lack of opportunity for more meaningful engagement with the water features.

Individual Site Discussions

Figure 11 shows the different quality results for each site using radar charts and the following section will dig deeper into the findings from each individual site. University Village had the highest average scores holistically across all qualities, whereas Green Lake Village had high average scores for most qualities with several qualities having significantly low average scores. Thornton Village’s qualities had slightly lower average scores comparatively.

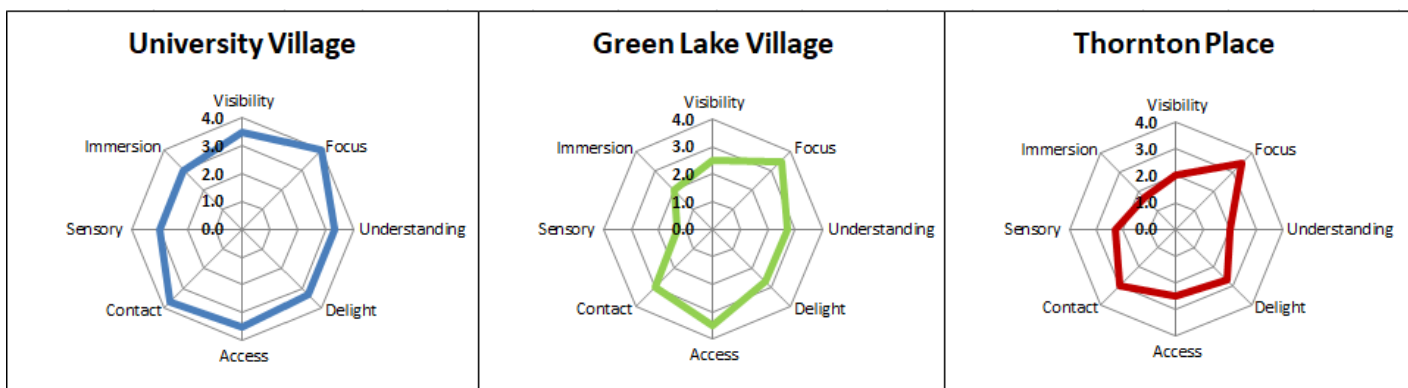


Figure 11: Individual Radar Chart of Quality Ratings for Study Sites. Source: Author.

University Village

University Village had the most successful combination of site design and water feature design according to the adapted scoring rubric (see Figure 7 and Table 16). Across all questions, the average rating for University Village was 3.44, with its highest average score in the Focus quality (4.0) and its lowest average score of 3.0 in both the Sensory and Immersion qualities. University Village was the only site to not receive an average quality score lower than 3.0. For the Sensory quality, while users can easily feel the water in the air, the water is not easily heard nor does the water have that much of a detectable smell. The way in which the water feature was implemented into the surrounding site helped University Village score well in the Access quality, with an overall average score of 3.5. The Access quality, which along with the Contact quality makes up the Interaction action, asks:

- “Is the water physically accessible? Can it be touched/felt?”
- Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature?”⁶⁷

Figure 12 shows the water feature’s detail-oriented design and its particularly human-scale implementation. Made up of animal sculptures of frogs and turtles sitting atop a variety of small rocks, the water feature’s tallest part is less than three feet in height, making it easy for users of all ages to touch as well as play in the water. Users of varied mobility can engage in a reasonably safe manner due to the water feature’s installation at the same level as the surrounding concrete.



Figure 12: Users of varied mobility and ages enjoy the water feature at University Village. Source: Author.

⁶⁷ (Matthews 2011, p. 35)



Figure 13: Children of various ages delighting in the spray patterns at University Village. Source: Author.

Of the three Delight quality questions, University Village scored an average of 3.3, with the first two questions receiving scores of 4 and the last question receiving a score of 2. The Delight quality, part of the Engagement action and the Aesthetics value, asks the following:

- “Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water?”
- “Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity?”
- “Are there different experiences and views available from different vantage points?”⁶⁸

The arch of the spraying frogs and turtle sculptures and how they meet haphazardly in the middle at certain points of the pattern create a mesmerizing pattern for children to watch and figure out (see Figure 13). The combination of imaginative sculptural design—not only human-scale but child-scale installation of the feature—and the pattern of the water sprays create the most engaging situations of delight for children especially. As Lawrence Halprin said about jets in his book *Cities*, “the great excitement about jets is that they defy gravity and explode into the air. This is the most unnatural of all the uses of water, and one of the most dramatic.”⁶⁹

While both Thornton Place and University Village use jets in the design of their water feature, University Village’s water feature design uses much smaller jets that spray water at a smaller, more approachable scale. As seen in Figure 13, children interacting with the water feature would create games to try to travel through the animals without getting wet based on the timing of the sprays or was observed multiple times or create characters out of the different animals. For the last Delight question, while both Green Lake Village and University Village are

⁶⁸ (Matthews 2011, p. 35)

⁶⁹ (Halprin 1972, p. 150)

constrained by a tight rectangular shape, Green Lake Village added dimension to the site by incorporating wooden benches and sets of stairs at the northern and southern edges of the water feature that allow users to have different vantage points of the overall site. University Village on the other hand surrounds the water feature with a few tables and chairs and one bench that are all at the same level (see Figure 14) and therefore only received a score of 2 for this question.



Figure 14: The seating options available near the University Village water feature. Source: Author.

Green Lake Village

Green Lake Village had an average rating across all questions of 2.64, with its highest average scores in the Focus and Access qualities (3.5) and its lowest average score in the Sensory Experience quality (1.3). The high score in the Access quality makes sense because the water feature area is very easily accessible for users of all abilities due to its location between two main pedestrian pathways and being on a flat surface so that users in strollers, on bikes, or with other type of wheels can all interact with the water in a comfortable way.

Although the site received a low average score of 2.7 for the Understanding quality, it received a score of 4 for the third question of “does the water feature area feel safe/comfortable? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.)” The high score aligns with some of the inspirational documents used by the Green Lake Village development team. While Figures 15 and 16 were created for the neighboring block of mixed-use residential property, that site had the same

development team as Green Lake Village. The conceptual diagram shown in Figure 15 shows that the sites of Green Lake Village and its neighboring mixed-use residential development were designed with intention around balancing the ability to pull people into the sites while still encouraging users to explore their surroundings beyond the immediate sites. Creating an open public space with multiple pedestrian access points throughout the exterior blocks as well as a mid-block pathway through the site, as shown in the rendered drawing (Figure 16) is arguably a key component of striking this balance. This is different from Thornton Place, which has a number of pedestrian access points but no clear mid-block pathway open to the air.

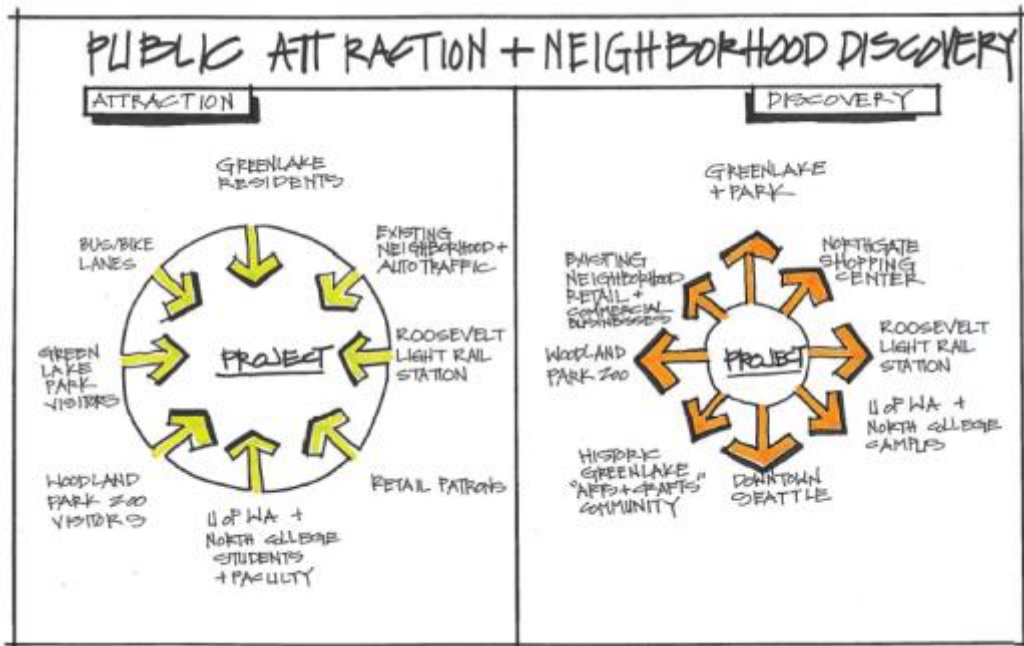


Figure 15: Developer Sketch for Mixed-Use Building Neighboring Green Lake Village. Source: Baylis Architects 2014.



Figure 16: Rendering showing pedestrian access to site. Source: Baylis Architects 2014.

The low Sensory Experience score was mostly due to the missed opportunity in terms of the edge design of the benches limiting the freedom of the water flow. As Lawrence Halprin mentions in his book *Cities*, the way in which an edge is designed influences how water flows across it. “Curling edges create a sheet flow [see Figure 17 sketch “a” and bottom left picture]. The under surface of the edge is important in controlling the flow. If it is flat, the water will run along the under surface and ooze [see Figure 17 sketch “b” and top picture of Green Lake Village]. A notch under the lip will prevent this and force the water to fall free [see Figure 17 sketch “c”].”⁷⁰ Green Lake Village’s benches do not incorporate the notch underneath or have a smooth edge as suggested by Halprin’s sketches “a” and “b” in Figure 17, creating a somewhat chaotic effect, as shown by sketch “c” in Figure 17.

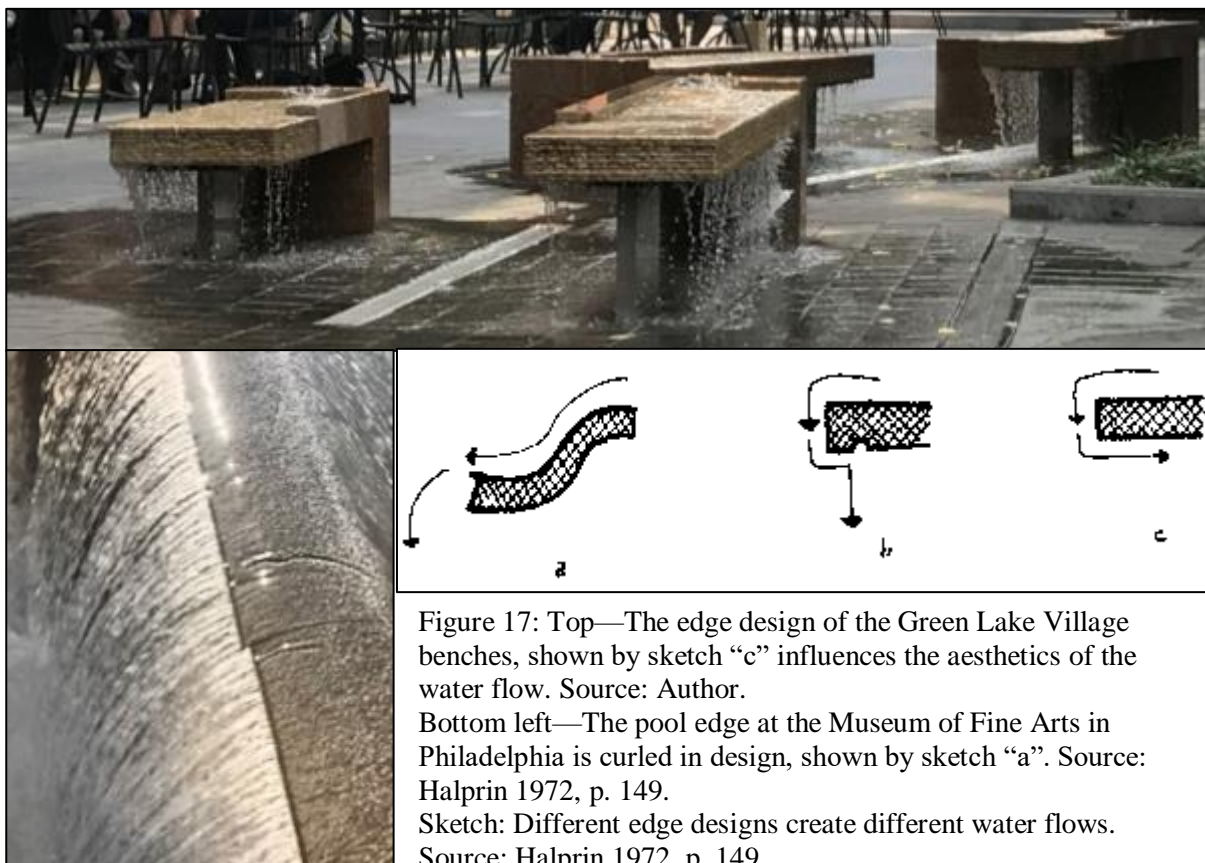


Figure 17: Top—The edge design of the Green Lake Village benches, shown by sketch “c” influences the aesthetics of the water flow. Source: Author.

Bottom left—The pool edge at the Museum of Fine Arts in Philadelphia is curled in design, shown by sketch “a”. Source: Halprin 1972, p. 149.

Sketch: Different edge designs create different water flows. Source: Halprin 1972, p. 149.

Thornton Place

Across all of the questions, Thornton Place received an average score of 2.48, the lowest between the three study sites. The highest average score was a 3.5 for the Focus quality while its

⁷⁰ (Halprin 1972, p. 149)

lowest average score was a 1.7 for the Immersion quality. As explained previously, Thornton Place likely scored low in Immersion due to the plaza being enclosed by six-story buildings and a lack of well-integrated vegetation in proximity to the water fountain, both of which make it difficult for users to feel like they are elsewhere (see Figure 18). Being surrounded by six-story buildings also hampered the site's visibility to those outside the space; Thornton Place received an average score of 2 for the Visibility quality, with each of the questions receiving a score of 2.

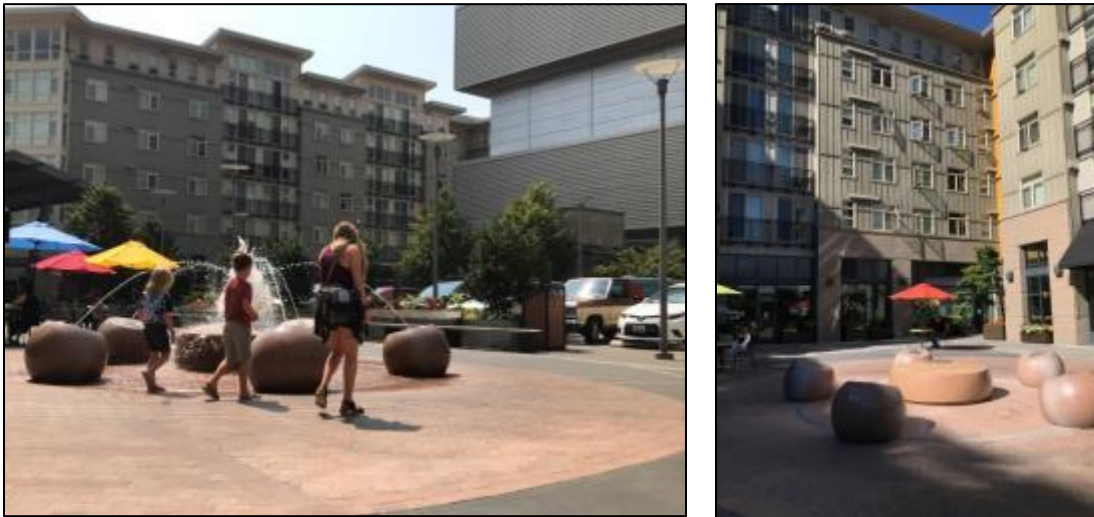


Figure 18: Left: View of surrounding buildings facing Southwest. Right: View of surrounding buildings facing Northeast. Source: Author.

Part of the Pull action, the Visibility quality investigates how users are pulled into the site in terms of the inherent characteristics of the site. This is different from the Focus quality, which also investigates how users are pulled into the site, but also looks at more psychological aspects of appeal rather than design features. Specifically, the Visibility quality asks:

- “Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable?”
- “Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious?”
- “Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting?”
- “Is the water feature compelling?”⁷¹

The Thornton Place plaza has four major pedestrian entrances, one from each of the cardinal directions, as well as a number of entrances from the surrounding residential buildings and the parking garage below has several exits that lead to the plaza. While the entrances have a good number of way-finding signs and labels, as one walks along the exterior of the surrounding buildings and passes the four major pedestrian entrances on the street level it is difficult to see

⁷¹ (Matthews 2011, p. 34)

anything compelling that would draw one to the site. Furthermore, while a pedestrian can travel mid-block through Thornton Place using several different paths, one has to have a certain level of familiarity with the site to do so confidently as the pathways are not immediately obvious to the eye, whereas at Green Lake Village the mid-block connection has an open air sight line that makes it easy for new users to traverse through the site.

Thornton Place also received an average score of 2 for the Understanding quality, which also looks at questions related to site design:

- “Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, and variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging?”
- “Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the setting or nearby conditions?”
- “Does the water feature area feel safe and comfortable? (open, vantage points, lighting, etc.)”⁷²

For the first question, Thornton Place scored a 2, possibly because the overall site design comes together in a way that may be overwhelming to some or not exciting enough to others. With the surrounding six story buildings creating somewhat of a wind tunnel at times and casting long shadows over portions of the site, the plaza tries to make the space more inviting with more human-scale trees and landscaping, but it may be placed too sporadically throughout the site to counter the looming quality of the surroundings (see Figures 19 and 20). In terms of the first Understanding question, the aerial view of Figure 20 shows that the site designers did try to create interesting lines by playing with the color and design of white against gray ground surface detailing, but this may get lost to the pedestrian user in the totality of the site. While the water feature was placed at the plaza’s northern end near two main pedestrian entrances, the site still received a score of 1 for the second Understanding question. Located on the northern side of the plaza, the water feature may not garner as much user engagement as it could if it was placed in the center of the plaza, where it could act as the main attraction and be more likely to draw people in from multiple pedestrian entrances.

⁷² (Matthews 2011, p. 34)



Figure 19: Human-scale trees and landscaping throughout the site at Thornton Place. Source: Author.

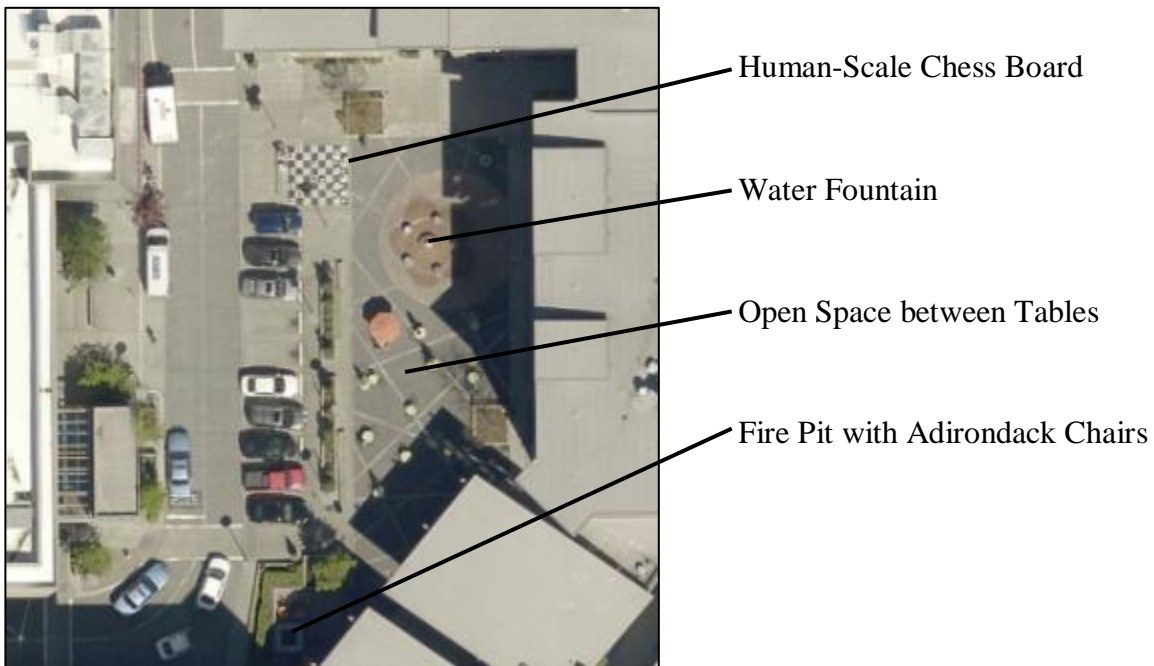


Figure 20: Site features within the large plaza of Thornton Place. Source: King County iMap.

For the third question of the Delight quality, which looks into the variety of experiences offered throughout the site, Thornton Place received the highest score of 3 among the study sites. While at Green Lake Village and University Place, the water feature seemed to be the sole attraction within the immediate vicinity, in this case, the large amount of open space within Thornton Place’s plaza was a benefit. A planting area and a row of parking spots buffer plaza users from the automobile traffic traveling through the site. In addition to the water feature, site users also had access to a human-scale chess board in close proximity, a comfortable amount of



Figure 21: Users were able to experience different forms of delight in the Thornton Place plaza due to the amount of open space near the water feature and the number of other amenities present. Source: Author.

open space for children or other users to run around safely, as well as a somewhat reliable fire pit surrounded by some Adirondack chairs a bit further from the fountain (see Figures 20 and 21).

The level of use of the Thornton Place water feature may have also been influenced by the larger natural water feature on the site—the daylighting of Thornton Creek. Whereas the studied water fountain at Thornton Place is within a hardscaped plaza with pockets of human-scale landscaping and vegetation, the daylighting project consists of 2.5 acres of green space within the full-block site. The Seattle Public Utilities project has meandering pedestrian paths with ample views of the creek as well as sculptural art installations (see Figure 22).⁷³ When site users seek engagement with water, they may choose to interact with this more natural green space rather than the plaza’s water fountain.



Figure 22: Thornton Creek daylighting project. Source: King County iMap and SvR Design Company.

⁷³ (SvR Design Company 2012)

Neighborhood Demographics vs. Site Users Demographics

As mentioned in the background information section for each site, in 2013 the City of Seattle’s Department of Planning and Development created neighborhood-level demographic data based on data compiled for the 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Table 17 below shows some of the neighborhood-level data for the Green Lake, Northgate/Maple Leaf, and Ravenna/Bryant neighborhoods, which are home to Green Lake Village, Thornton Place, and University Village respectively.

Table 17: Demographics of Neighborhoods surrounding Study Sites

Demographic Data	Green Lake	Northgate/Maple Leaf	Ravenna/Bryant
Total Population	14,466	14,020	25,113
# of Housing Units	7,163	7,614	10,738
% of Home Ownership	50.7%	38.9%	60.9%
% Households with at least one child under the age of 18	19.3%	18.2%	25.4%
% White	84.1%	69.8%	80.9%
% Speak language other than English at home	14.2%	26.9%	15.7%
% with at least Bachelor’s Degree	74.2%	51.3%	75.2%
Median Household Income	\$90,263	\$56,434	\$76,892

Source: City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development 2015.

During my observations at Green Lake Village (see Appendix F), I noticed that there was a stark difference between those choosing to sit down and spend a significant amount of time in the space versus those simply passing through the space. Many grocery shoppers or others running errands were more likely to be alone and more likely to either not engage with the water feature or engage for a shorter amount of time. There were also a significant number of delivery personnel from various companies that passed through the site and usually were too rushed to engage with the benches. The Green Lake area also had the highest percentage of white people living in the neighborhood compared to the two other neighborhoods. Although approximately 84% of the surrounding neighborhood is white, and while I did not take specific counts of people during my observations, it seems that there was a slightly higher presence of people of color during my observations. This could be due to the data being collected from 2009-2013 while the observations took place a few years later in 2017.

Green Lake also had the highest median income of about \$90,000, which was nearly \$15,000 more than the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood and nearly \$35,000 more than the

Northgate/Maple Leaf neighborhood. Broadly speaking, families with higher incomes are more likely to have flexibility with scheduling and more pockets of free time. The Green Lake area had the lowest percentage of 14.2% for people who speak a language other than English at home. This aligns with the fact that English was the only language heard during observations at the site.

While Green Lake Village is a mixed-use development like Thornton Place, Green Lake Village had more users traveling through the space, likely due to the presence and popularity of the grocery store as well as the frozen yogurt chain within the space. Secondly, the manmade Green Lake is a little more than two blocks away, and it was observed that a number of site users were people who seemingly had just come from various activities at Green Lake. All of these factors seemed to have an influence on the number of people in groups using the site. Even though Green Lake had just a slightly higher rate of households with at least one child under the age of 18 than Thornton Place, based on observational assumptions, it was common at Green Lake Village to see groups consisting of one parent and their child with several friends of the child. At Thornton Place and University Village, it was more typical to see groups made up of distinct family groups.

One would think that Thornton Place's movie theater, in combination with several restaurants, would attract a similar number of users (if not possibly more users) to a site as a grocery store would, but this was not the case. Thornton Place's lower amount of traffic may have been due to the fact that it is generally more popular to attend movies at night and none of the observations took place at night. Another large user of the commercial space available on the bottom floor of Thornton Place was a UW medical facility, which would likely have more users during their weekday hours. Lastly, since no formal counts were taken of people traversing through the space, due to the larger size of the Thornton Place plaza, even if the same number of people passed through as the number of people that passed through Green Lake Village, it could simply be an observational illusion that it seemed like Thornton Place was less busy and Green Lake Village was more crowded.

Thornton Place's surrounding Northgate/Maple Leaf neighborhood had the highest percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home, with 26.9%, more than 10% higher than the levels in the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood or the Green Lake neighborhood. On several occasions during my observations, I did hear different languages spoken among users of the Thornton Place site.

Compared to Green Lake Village and Thornton Place, the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood surrounding University Village is quite larger with 25,113 people. This neighborhood also had the highest rates among the three neighborhoods for home ownership, households with at least one child under the age of 18, and having at least a bachelor's degree. However, it is important to note that while University Village is technically within the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood, it is also heavily frequented by students from the University District neighborhood. The demographic data of University District is quite different than that of Ravenna/Bryant in terms of rental rates and languages spoken at home. During my observations at University Village (See Appendix E), I noticed that users spoke languages other than English somewhat frequently. 15.7% of the Ravenna/Bryant neighborhood speaks a language other than English at home.

Differences in transit accessibility may have also impacted the ability of certain groups to visit the sites to the three study sites. For users traveling by car, Thornton Place typically had parking available in the underground garages no matter the time of day, University Village usually had limited parking available, and Green Lake Village's underground garage was normally more crowded and required payment, whereas parking at the other two sites was free. For users traveling by bus, Thornton Place is near a King County Metro Park-and-Ride facility, which provides service for the 26, 40, 41, 63, 67, 75, 303, 345, 346, 347, 348, 555, 556, and 995 routes. Near Green Lake Village, users can catch the 26, 45, 62, 63, and 316 bus routes within a block of the site. The 31, 32, 65, 67, 75, 78, 372, 980, 995 bus routes are within reasonable walking distances from the borders of the University Village site. According to Seattle Department of Transportation, for those traveling by bike, University Village is a few blocks away from the Burke Gilman Trail. Green Lake Village is also a few blocks away from the protected bike lanes along Ravenna Boulevard. The street on the southern side of Green Lake Village, NE 71st St, has a sharrow (shared travel lane) which leads to a bike lane network that allows one to either go across the highway or head north on 5th Ave NE. The bike lanes continue on 5th Ave NE for the most part until one reaches NE 101st St, the southern street along Thornton Place, where the bike lane becomes a sharrow.⁷⁴

⁷⁴ (City of Seattle: Department of Transportation 2016)

Demographics of Water Feature Users

The main difference between the site users and those that actually engaged with the water feature seemed to be age. Across all three sites, children were much more likely to interact with the water than adults. When adult users did choose to directly interact with the water, some themes emerged as to their possible motivations. Across all three sites, the most common reason adults engaged with the water feature was when they were assisting or supervising their own children (see Figure 23). While these parents likely had a more indirect interaction with the water feature since their primary focus may have been ensuring the safety of their child, the lack of direct emotional or psychological benefits of being present in the moment and enjoying the water feature individually may have been balanced by the joy of watching their child experience the water feature.



Figure 23: A woman steadies a child as they walk through the benches at Green Lake Village; a man helps a child interact with the Thornton Place fountain; four men assist children playing in the water feature at University Village, a man helps two young children climb onto the benches at Green Lake Village. Source: Author.

On the other side of the Thornton Creek daylighting installation at Thornton Place, a semi-independent retirement facility is located on the opposite corner of same block that houses over 142 units for seniors. A fair number of elderly people, presumably from the retirement facility, were observed traveling at the study site near the water feature in small groups although it was rare that they stopped to directly engage with the water feature. There were also a fair number of site users over the age of 65 at University Village. While some were there in the role of grandparent traveling with their extended family and grandchildren through the site, others were walking through the shopping area with a few friends, and it was also somewhat common to see older women shopping on their own. Green Lake Village probably had the least number of elderly users observed (see Figure 24).



Figure 24: Top left—Two senior citizens, likely from neighboring retirement facility, walk through the Thornton Place plaza. Top right—Two elderly women are seen in the background walking alone by the water feature at University Village. Bottom left—An elderly woman shows a child the water feature. Bottom right—an elderly woman playfully splashes her friend at Green Lake Village. Source: Author.

Pre-teenagers and teenagers were observed at all three sites and whether or not they chose to engage with the water features seemed to be dependent upon whether they were with family or friends, and if they were with friends, it was influenced by how many friends were present in the group as well as what role they played in their group of friends (see Figure 25). The most teenagers were observed at Green Lake Village, which may have been due to the high number of summer camps going on nearby or perhaps that Green Lake itself is a popular place to hang out. While a fair number of teenagers were observed walking through the site at University Village, they were usually in larger groups and it was rarer for them to engage with the water feature. When teenagers did engage with the water fountain at University Village, they were usually in small groups of two to three people. Some pre-teenagers also were more likely to engage at University Village if they had a younger sibling present that wanted to play in the water feature. There may have been fewer sightings of teenagers at Thornton Place due to the fact that the observations took place during the afternoon and early evening, whereas the movie theater on-site may attract more teenage users at nighttime.



Figure 25: Top Left—A group of male teenagers at Green Lake Village converse near the water feature. Top Right—one teenager at Thornton Place left her group of friends to engage with the water fountain. Bottom Left: Two female teenagers who had been swimming at Green Lake chose to play in the water feature at 66
Bottom right: A group of pre-teenager girls at Green Lake Village walk through the benches. Source: Author.

When adults that were not accompanying their children engaged with water features, they were traveling through the site with another adult, walking their dog, or in more rare cases, traveling alone (see Figure 26). While adults traveling alone were observed engaging with the water features at all three sites, it was more common to observe this at Green Lake Village and Thornton Place. At University Village, less single adults using the water feature may have been due to the high number of users typically engaging with the water feature. In addition, University Village had the smallest water feature between the three sites, and therefore it may have been difficult for single users over the age of 18 to feel comfortable entering the space of the water feature. As an observer sitting in the near vicinity of the water feature, I felt the least comfortable at University Village in terms of other adults giving questioning glances or stares as to the nature of my presence as a single adult. In other words, it seemed much less out of the ordinary for single adults to use the spaces near the water features at Thornton Place and Green Lake Village, possibly due to the greater number and variety of seating options available at the two sites.



Figure 26: Top Left—A young woman lets her dog drink water from the benches at Green Lake Village. Top Right—A woman stops to eat her ice cream while walking her dog at University Village. Bottom Left—A young man dips his fingers into the Thornton Place fountain while checking his phone. Bottom right—A group of three women stop at Thornton Place to look at the water fountain. Source: Author.

Levels of Engagement vs. Quality of Engagement

When children engaged with Thornton Place's water feature, the size of the surrounding plaza gave them plenty of space to play and run around (see Figure 27), and this higher level of play and freedom seen at Thornton Place was not as seen at the other sites. While not necessary direct engagement with the water feature, it was usually coupled with engaging with the feature. At Thornton Place, tag and a few other games were frequent between groups of children, such as directing the spray of one rock towards another or running underneath the arching sprays. The water feature acted as a conduit to further play, and this pattern was observed at the other sites.



Figure 27: Various groups of children playing at the water fountain at Thornton Place. Source: Author.

While the large size of the plaza at Thornton Place allowed for certain types of high quality engagement, sometimes the space allowed users to avoid the water feature, which limited opportunities for interactions among different groups. At University Village and Green Lake Village, children were also observed running through the water feature and surrounding area despite the more constrained spaces. There were also several instances of cross-cultural game play or even playing games with one another despite a language barrier (see Figure 27). At both Green Lake Village and University Village, it was also somewhat common for children to use objects in their play, such as shoes or cups, to change the way in which the water feature worked (see Figure 28). At the top of Figure 28, a little girl started to play with a cup in Green Lake Village, then a boy who was also near the benches asked if he could have a cup to play with as well. At Thornton Place, the use of objects was not observed, and despite a higher level of people speaking a language other than English at home in the surrounding neighborhood, no cross-cultural game play took place among children.



Figure 28: Top—two children using cups to play in the benches at Green Lake Village. Bottom—two children using objects to interact with the water feature at University Village. Source: Author.

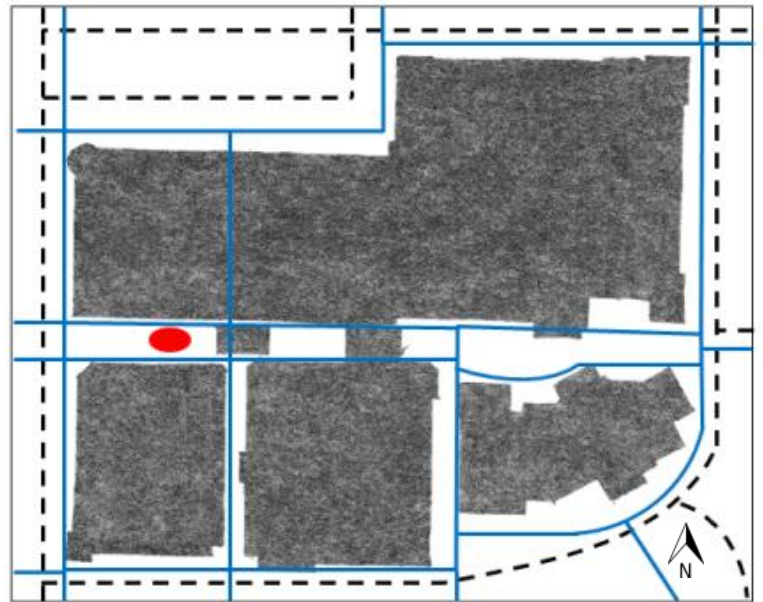
Overall Site Design vs. Success of Water Feature

The relationship between the water features and the immediate surroundings were similar at Green Lake Village and University Village in that both had two major pedestrian paths on either side of the water feature (see Figure 29). However, in terms of the ratings, University Village scored higher than Green Lake Village in the Visibility quality and Understanding quality, both of which ask questions that look at the influence of overall site design.

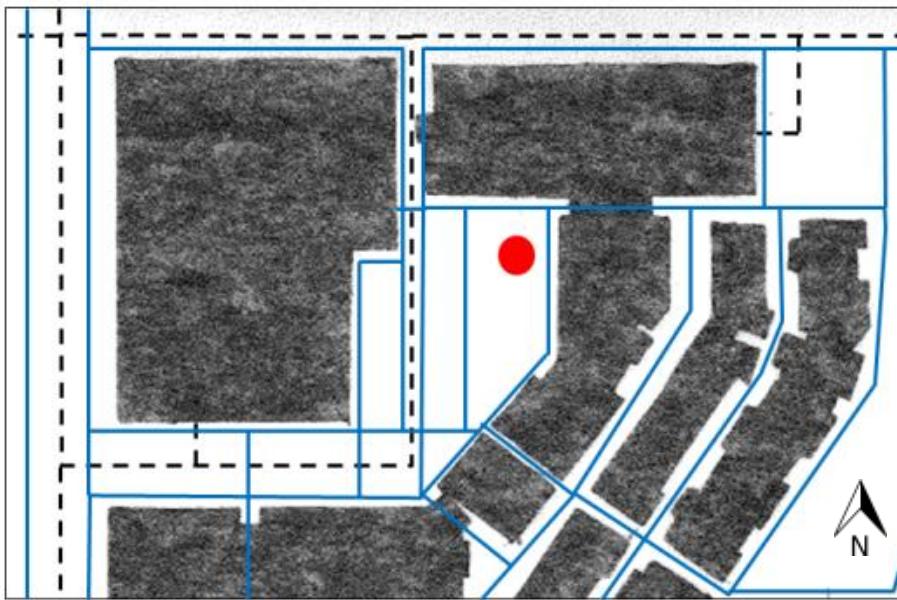
While the six-story surrounding buildings at Thornton Place and Green Lake Village created unfortunate factors like a wind tunnel and significant shading that somewhat limited the success of the plaza and water feature, in other scenarios tall buildings do not detract from the experience of the site due to the use of well-placed human-scale landscaping and vegetation. Thus, Thornton Place and Green Lake Village have mitigation opportunities to improve the success of their water features through improving other important aesthetic design considerations. This will be further discussed in the policy recommendations section.





All other factors being equal, the behaviors and mindsets of the users at each site were different, possibly due to the major retailers or uses occupying the buildings surrounding the sites. While both sites are mixed-use residential and commercial developments, the major pull for users from the outside community to Green Lake Village seemed to be either the PCC grocery store or the Menchie's frozen yogurt store as a close second, whereas at Thornton Place there was not one clear use that pulled users to the site. Due to the high number of uses in the immediate vicinity, Thornton Place seemed to have the highest variety of users—moviegoers, shoppers, restaurant goers, residents from the apartments above or the nearby elderly apartment building, employees from the surrounding stores/services—that walked through the plaza as part of their day. On the other hand, for University Village, it seemed apparent that the variety of retail stores and restaurants was what drew users from the outside community to the site. Grocery stores and retail stores both generally attract families, but the retail shopper's mindset is more leisurely and calm, whereas the grocery shopper's mindset is usually more task-oriented and focused. The way users interacted with a site may have been influenced by these mindsets and therefore Green Lake Village may have seen less engagement with the water feature due to the hurried outlook of grocery shoppers compared to the more relaxed mindset of retail shoppers at Thornton Place and University Village.

University Village



Thornton Place



Legend	
	Buildings
	Water Feature
	Streets
	Pedestrian Pathways

Green Lake Village

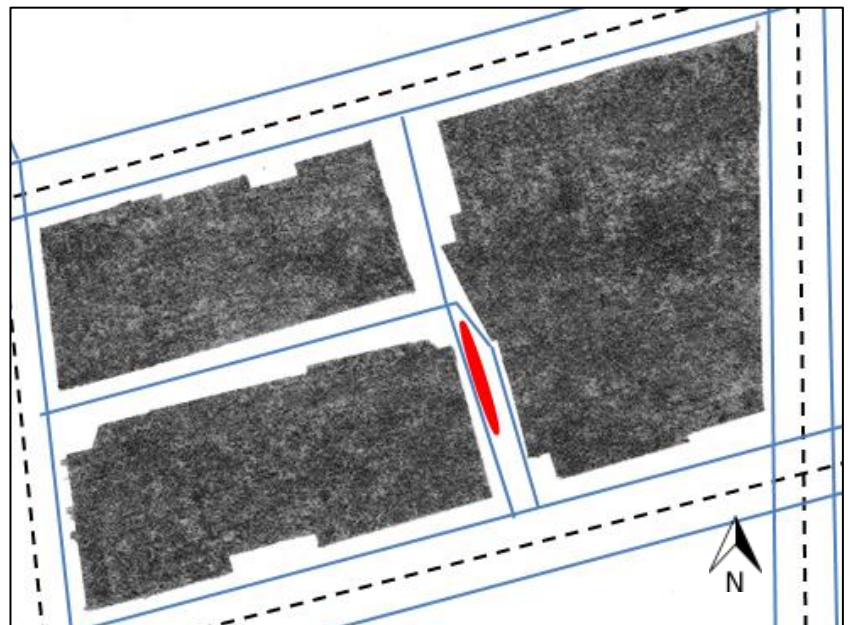


Figure 29: From top—adapted figure ground drawings of University Village, Thornton Place and Green Lake Village. Source: Author.

Policy Recommendations

One of Matthews' main assumptions was that "good design with water in the urban landscape can be derived from evaluation of visible water features, regarding what they look like, how they perform, and what they stand for."⁷⁵ Launching from this assumption, the goal of this thesis is to offer specific policy recommendations in the form of suggested design guidelines around the implementation of water features in order to create more successful privatized public spaces. Focusing on privatized public spaces is vital as "design considerations can be particularly important in the more intimate spaces of compact development, which will be more frequently experienced at a human scale."⁷⁶ The design guidelines described here can be incorporated into existing municipalities' design guidelines frameworks so that these small pockets of privatized public spaces, with the help of well-intentioned water feature installations, can reach their full potential in offering users direct and indirect ways to engage with each other. As Halprin says, "more than any other single element besides trees and gardens, water has the greatest potential to forge an emotional link between man and nature in the city."⁷⁷ Therefore, water should have a stronger emphasis within the design guideline framework to influence how cities encourage developers to create public spaces.

As explained in the literature review, the 2013 Seattle Design Guidelines focus on three themes (Context and Site, Public Life, Design Concept), each with three to four underlying principles (see Table 18). The 2013 Seattle Design Guidelines go into detail outlining ideal practices for the principles, with "the overarching goal...to foster design excellence in private development of new multifamily and commercial projects throughout the city."⁷⁸ The citywide guidelines define one component of design excellence as "the project's contribution to the public realm, not only in terms of the building itself but also in site development, landscape and public open space."⁷⁹ Specific Neighborhood Design Guidelines then have the ability to choose whether or not they accept the Seattle Design Guidelines as is for each principal or they can discuss certain principles in further detail. The most relevant principles for incorporating more structure for water features in public spaces are CS1: Natural Systems and Site Features, PL1: Open Space Connectivity, and DC3: Open Space Concept.

⁷⁵ (Matthews 2011, p. 99)

⁷⁶ (Urban Land Institute, and National Multi Housing Council 2008, p. 126)

⁷⁷ (Spirn 1984, p. 142)

⁷⁸ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines, 2013 p. iii)

⁷⁹ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines, 2013, p. iii)

Table 18: Themes and Principles of Design Guidelines⁸⁰

	THEMES		
	Context and Site	Public Life	Design Concept
Principles	CS1: Natural Systems and Site Features	PL1: Open Space Connectivity	DC1: Project Uses and Activities
	CS2: Urban Pattern and Form	PL2: Walkability	DC2: Architectural Concept
	CS3: Architectural Context and Character	PL3: Street-Level Interaction	DC3: Open Space Concept
		PL4: Active Transportation	DC4: Materials

The goal for this thesis is to recommend policy recommendations in the form of design guidelines so that they can be incorporated into the next iteration of the Seattle Design Guidelines or any municipality’s existing design guideline framework. My four design guideline suggestions are:

- Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features
- Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water
- Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement
- Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

Within the next sections, I will explain the rationale behind each policy recommendation as well as provide a holistic perspective of their implementation in terms of trade-offs, required maintenance, and possible incentives to make it easier for proposed developments to put these suggestions into practice.

⁸⁰ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development. Seattle Design Guidelines, 2013)

Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features

Georgia Gerber’s sculptural installation of frog and turtle water sprayers at University Village was the most successful in terms of direct human interaction and meaningful moments of engagement with site users. Lawrence Halprin notes that “sculpture for children is designed for their participation and play, and one would hope to capture for everyone, including adults, the delight of these joyous sculptures.”⁸¹ At all three sites, it was clear that seeing children at play sparked joy in other users traveling through or passing by the water feature.

The top two photos of Figure 30 on the following page show Georgia Gerber’s successful sculptural pieces within Redmond Town Center. The water fountain design itself is quite simple, so the sculptures add another dimension of play to the area. The choice to use a mother bear watching her two cubs playing nearby subtly suggests and encourages play amongst the water and sculptures as other users watch or supervise on the periphery. This site is a good example of a more straightforward installation of public art associated with the water feature in a way that enhances the overall pull to the site and increases the likelihood of interaction.

The two bottom photos of Figure 30 show the unique combination of not only water and sculpture but also music within a public space at the Ontario Science Center. The sculpture in this case acts as a “hydraulophone” and users of the water feature have control over several aspects of the instrument, allowing them to change the way the music sounds and make music together. While installation and maintenance of this feature is more costly and involved and using music within a water feature would not be appropriate at all sites, the important takeaway is that there are many ways in which developments can incorporate public art into water features.

Commercial and mixed-use developments can be incentivized to provide more lively water feature amenities using public art. Within the Seattle Design Guidelines, sculptural or other artistic design, and especially artistic design with children in mind, should be mentioned in connection with water features. The current Seattle Design Guideline principle Public Life 1: Open Space Connectivity mentions the importance of creating open spaces that encourage human interaction and add to the public life through the use of pedestrian amenities such as public art. The PL1 principle also mentions the use of water features in a separate section, but by combining the currently separate ideas of public art and water features within the Seattle Design Guidelines, the resulting creation would have multiple benefits.

⁸¹ (Halprin 1972, p. 220)

Developers should prioritize finding local artists who can help create a piece of art that will give site users a sense of familiarity, community, and place. While including public art within water features may have higher design, installation and maintenance costs, these can be reduced either upfront by working with the artist to make smaller pieces or change the scope. Secondly, creating richer public spaces that attract more users to the site may allow the building managers to charge higher rents for the surrounding commercial spaces. Through the use of this design guideline, privately-managed or privately-owned developments would be encouraged to develop human-scale art installations with water features to create more engaging spaces.



Figure 30: Clockwise from top left: People congregate and play around Georgia Gerber’s 1997 ‘Mother Black Bear and Cubs’ sculpture within a water feature at Redmond Town Center; close up of Gerber’s sculpture; visitors of Ontario Science Center play with the hydraulophone; close up of hydraulophone. Sources: ExperienceRedmond.com 2016, Georgia Gerber 2004, Wearcam.org 2004 (both bottom photos).

Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water



Figure 31: Hinge Park in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Source: Vancouver Daily Photo 2010.

None of the sites studied mixed the use of both still water and moving water in the design of their water features. All three sites used moving water, which would sometimes pool slightly before draining, but this was not an intentional part of the water feature’s design. Creating water features with both still water and moving water would fit in well with Seattle Design Guideline Principle CS1: Natural Systems and Site Features, which advocates for site designs that “use project drainage systems as opportunities to add interest to the site through water-related design elements. Features such as...fountains of recycled water, and/or water art installations can create movement and sound, air cooling, focal points for pedestrians, and habitats which may already be required to manage on-site stormwater and allow reuse of potable water for irrigation.”⁸²

Although situated on a little more than two acres, Hinge Park in Vancouver, British Columbia is a good example of this, as it “hosts a stream and wetland that are part of a treatment system that handles stormwater runoff” for part of the surrounding neighborhood (see Figure 31).⁸³ Having a design guideline to encourage the use of both still and moving water would also enable the creation of public spaces that attract different types of users—pools or ponds of waters can create a more calming element in a public space for users looking for relief from the urban environment. Secondly, still water can encourage users of varied mobility to engage with the water since one can interact with a pool or a bowl of water without getting too wet.

⁸² (Seattle Design Guidelines 2013, p. 3)

⁸³ (Matthews 2011, p. 46)

Compared to the other suggested design guidelines, this idea is fairly easy to implement and does not require too many trade-offs, especially when creating both still and moving water within the water feature contributes to the stormwater management of the site.

Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement

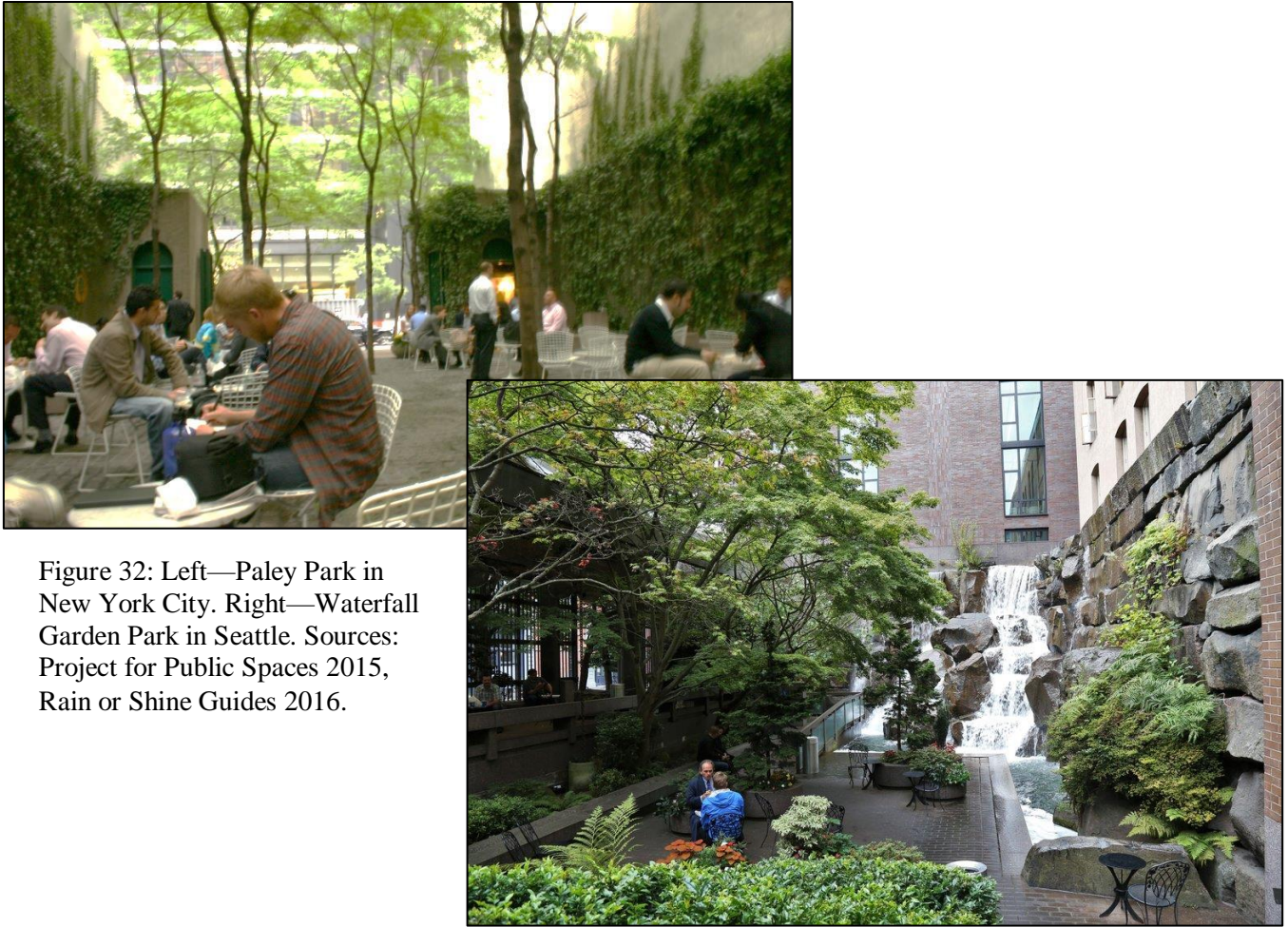


Figure 32: Left—Paley Park in New York City. Right—Waterfall Garden Park in Seattle. Sources: Project for Public Spaces 2015, Rain or Shine Guides 2016.

It is clear that the Thornton Place site designers did try to create interesting lines within the site by playing with the color and design of white against gray paving techniques (see aerial view of Figure 20). The water feature is also highlighted by the use of a different paving material that outlines the circular border of the fountain. However, to the pedestrian user, these details seem to get lost to the pedestrian user in the totality of the overall space of the plaza. The techniques likely would have been more successful if they were paired with human-scale landscaping to further suggest or define the pathways. At University Village, the strategies of constricting the size of the space, using pavement or pathway strategies, and adding human-scale

landscaping elements seemed to come together in a way that comfortably defines the space for users. As seen in Figure 14, the use of mature trees surrounded by small gardens on either side of the water feature at University Village provides a subtle border to the space, which contributed to the ease with which users felt free to roam slightly beyond the water feature.

Paley Park in New York City and Waterfall Garden Park in Seattle also both achieve the balance of implementing human-scale elements to create a dense yet comforting environment that allows users to feel more immersed and present within a site despite being surrounded by tall buildings (see Figure 32). The strategies to use of human-scale elements—landscaping, pathways, and vegetation—is readily found within the existing Seattle Design Guidelines. The focus of this policy recommendation is to suggest the use of these strategies specifically when discussing the designing of sites around water features to subtly pull users towards the feature and encourage engagement.

Developers may want to add a water feature as a focal point to an open space area, but the water feature's success can be enhanced or more readily guaranteed through the use of thoughtful and intentional supporting human-scale elements. Landscaping can be expensive to maintain, so thoughtful planting plans that are realistically aligned with future maintenance budgets is a key aspect to the longevity of implementing this design guideline into a project. However, similar to the first design guideline recommendation, higher maintenance budgets may be able to be offset by the success of the open area space bringing more users to the site, in turn allowing the building managers to charge higher rents for the surrounding commercial spaces.

Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

Incorporating aspects of technology into the design of water features to encourage engagement and interaction in privatized public spaces can be an inexpensive way to increase the effectiveness of the overall site. Halprin notes that through the use of fairly low-cost technology, “the most elaborate and complex mobility and change in water effects can be carefully programmed and controlled. These water effects can be interwoven with sound and lighting into a new...series of fascinating relationships, which can be involved or simple, and which consist no longer of water alone, but of a vast kaleidoscope of diverse elements.”⁸⁴ In some cases, these technological features can be implemented after a water feature has long been in place to

⁸⁴ (Halprin 1972, p. 135)

revitalize the space and give it new meaning. While adding technology to a site will inherently add operation and maintenance costs, there are a wide variety of ways that sites can use technology, allowing most spaces the ability to implement the use of additional lights, sounds, or other effects no matter what budget constraints exist.

The City of St. Louis, Missouri uses light with the installation of a water feature to activate their City Park in the downtown area so that it is open to the public at night (see Figure 33). The use of light to activate a space aligns with the current Seattle Design Guideline principle Public Life 1: Open Space Connectivity, specifically it's Outdoor Uses and Activities section, which encourages the inclusion of "features in open spaces for activities beyond daylight hours and throughout the seasons of the year, especially in neighborhood centers where active open space will contribute vibrancy, economic health, and public safety."⁸⁵ Increasing the activation times of the site can attract a different population of users and allow for surrounding businesses to attract more users as well. One trade-off is that maintenance and operation budgets would need to be expanded to account for extra security and longer times the water feature and associated components are turned on. However, as mentioned previously, a successful water feature can act as a focal point to a wide variety of users, and the additional costs may be able to be offset by being able to charge higher rents to the surrounding businesses.



Figure 33: Citygarden Sculpture Park in St. Louis, Missouri. Source: FUSE Washington University in Saint Louis 2017.

⁸⁵ (City of Seattle: Department of Planning and Development, Seattle Design Guidelines 2013 pp. 11-12)

Further Research

While this thesis study offers meaningful contributions to the use of design guidelines and the design of water features in privately-managed public spaces, there are several areas where further research could be focused. While Seattle has a well-developed network of public parks, small neighborhood-level, privately-managed public spaces such as the ones in this study can have the potential to enhance minority access to water/park and their participation levels. One area for future research include studying sites in a broader range than northeastern Seattle to examine whether or not there are issues of social justice and equity when it comes to creating meaningful privatized public spaces with water features throughout the city. Since the three studied sites included two mixed-use developments and one commercial development, deeper analysis could be devoted to learning whether or not these two distinct uses have different influences on the successful implementation of water features in open spaces. While this thesis did look at demographic factors of the neighborhoods surrounding the sites, more time could be spent looking into these trends and to see if any patterns emerge in the type of person in Seattle more likely to engage with water features. The findings of this thesis could also be compared to engagement in other cities' privatized public spaces.

The observations of the three sites took place during the afternoon and early evening in the summer months in Seattle, when the sites were more likely to have a higher number of site users and higher levels of engagement with water features compared to other times of the year that have more frequent rainfall. Thus, new research could examine the level of activity at sites during the more rainy months or at nighttime and develop strategies to increase engagement during these times.

Conclusion

While public parks already have distinct spaces carved throughout the landscape of dense cities like Seattle, the creation of smaller, everyday public spaces, such as walkways in shopping areas or courtyards in mixed-use developments, are being created by private development projects. In the city of Seattle, the design and aesthetics of these spaces are not only influenced by the goals of the private developer but also the underlying zoning code and the neighborhood design guidelines. Therefore, there is opportunity for input on the design and aesthetics of these spaces through the Design Review process in the City of Seattle. While the Design Review process does not require strict compliance like municipal code, the process has the flexibility to be able to appropriately challenge and incentivize the creation of higher quality privatized public spaces.

With these privately-managed or privately-owned public spaces on the rise, I studied three privately-owned public spaces with water features in three neighborhoods with design guidelines: Green Lake, Northgate, and University, which are all in the Northeastern section of Seattle. Through the lens of qualitative observation at the three study sites, this thesis suggests incorporating the following design guideline around the implementation of water in order to create more successful privatized public spaces:

- Incorporate Public Art into the Design of Water Features
- Create Water Features with Components of Still Water and Moving Water
- Use Pathways and Human-Scale Elements to Encourage Engagement
- Add Low-Cost Technology to Activate Water Feature

Each of these policy options have different trade-offs that will be important for decision-makers to consider when determining how to frame the options or negotiate with developers through the use of incentives or other ways to encourage projects to follow the design guidelines. However, being able to interact with water in the urban landscape has important psychological benefits. Designing water features more intentionally can allow these pockets of privatized public space to foster more genuine interactions among its users, thereby enhancing the overall quality of life in the city.

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Appendix A: Jeanne Matthews' Original Rubric (2011)

VALUE	QUALITY	QUESTION	RATING: 0 to 4
AESTHETICS:			
		Used in reference to visual perceptions and impressions; clarity relating to landscape architecture	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Pull</i>			
	Visibility		QUAL AVG:
		Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable?	0 1 2 3 4
		Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the water feature compelling?	0 1 2 3 4
	Focus		QUAL AVG:
		Are there choices of activity/level of involvement?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there something worth looking at?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Engagement</i>			
	Understanding		QUAL AVG:
		Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the nearby conditions?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature area feel safe, with open areas, vantage points, lighting, etc.?	0 1 2 3 4
	Delight		QUAL AVG:
		Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there different experiences and views available from nearby vantage points?	0 1 2 3 4
		Do the nearby vistas/views enhance the site?	0 1 2 3 4
WELLNESS:			
		Considered in how people are influenced; contributing qualities that are enriching and positive	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Interaction</i>			
	Access		QUAL AVG:

		Is the water physically accessible; can it be touched/felt?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature?	0 1 2 3 4
	Contact		QUAL AVG:
		Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Benefit</i>			
	Sensory Experience		QUAL AVG:
		Can the water be felt in the air?	0 1 2 3 4
		Can the water feature be heard?	0 1 2 3 4
		If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?	0 1 2 3 4
	Immersion		QUAL AVG:
		Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?	0 1 2 3 4
SUSTAINABILITY:			
		Addressing the creation and existence of presented water features within urban public space	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Function</i>			
	Performance		QUAL AVG:
		Does the water for the feature come from a sustainable source, or is it recirculating?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there a visible process and awareness of accessing water for site use?	0 1 2 3 4
	Intention		QUAL AVG:
		Does the design and inclusion of water suggest an integrated urban ecological function?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does it seem likely that the site has long-term viability?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature appear well-maintained?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Impact</i>			
	Aquatic Health		QUAL AVG:
		Is the water quality improved through contact with the feature/site?	0 1 2 3 4

		OR Are water treatment processes used for desirable and beneficial end use?	0	1	2	3	4
		Is there integrated stormwater management?	0	1	2	3	4
		Does there appear to be monitoring of the water feature's intended function?	0	1	2	3	4
	Relevance		QUAL AVG:				
		Are there efforts to connect with habitat and green opportunities of the surrounding area?	0	1	2	3	4
		Is there an educational component to the use of water?	0	1	2	3	4
		(Recognition/Award: indicator of success?)	0	1	2	3	4

Appendix B: Adapted Rubric with Scores for University Village

VALUE	QUALITY	QUESTION	RATING: 0 to 4
AESTHETICS:			
		Used in reference to visual perceptions and impressions; clarity relating to landscape architecture	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Pull</i>			
	Visibility		QUAL AVG: 3.5
		Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable?	0 1 2 3 4
		Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the water feature compelling?	0 1 2 3 4
	Focus		QUAL AVG: 4.0
		Are there choices of activity/level of involvement?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there something worth looking at?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Engagement</i>			
	Understanding		QUAL AVG: 3.3
		Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the nearby conditions?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature area feel safe, with open areas, vantage points, lighting, etc.?	0 1 2 3 4
	Delight		QUAL AVG: 3.3
		Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there different experiences and views available from nearby vantage points?	0 1 2 3 4
WELLNESS:			
		Considered in how people are influenced; contributing qualities that are enriching and positive	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Interaction</i>			
	Access		QUAL AVG: 3.5

		Is the water physically accessible; can it be touched/felt?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature?	0 1 2 3 4
	Contact		QUAL AVG: 3.7
		Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Benefit</i>			
	Sensory Experience		QUAL AVG: 3.0
		Can the water be felt in the air?	0 1 2 3 4
		Can the water feature be heard?	0 1 2 3 4
		If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?	0 1 2 3 4
	Immersion		QUAL AVG: 3.0
		Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?	0 1 2 3 4

Appendix C: Adapted Rubric with Scores for Green Lake Village

VALUE	QUALITY	QUESTION	RATING: 0 to 4
AESTHETICS:			
		Used in reference to visual perceptions and impressions; clarity relating to landscape architecture	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Pull</i>			
	Visibility		QUAL AVG: 2.5
		Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable?	0 1 2 3 4
		Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the water feature compelling?	0 1 2 3 4
	Focus		QUAL AVG: 3.5
		Are there choices of activity/level of involvement?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there something worth looking at?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Engagement</i>			
	Understanding		QUAL AVG: 2.7
		Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the nearby conditions?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature area feel safe, with open areas, vantage points, lighting, etc.?	0 1 2 3 4
	Delight		QUAL AVG: 2.7
		Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there different experiences and views available from nearby vantage points?	0 1 2 3 4
WELLNESS:			
		Considered in how people are influenced; contributing qualities that are enriching and positive	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Interaction</i>			
	Access		QUAL AVG: 3.5

		Is the water physically accessible; can it be touched/felt?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature?	0 1 2 3 4
	Contact		QUAL AVG: 3.0
		Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Benefit</i>			
	Sensory Experience		QUAL AVG: 1.3
		Can the water be felt in the air?	0 1 2 3 4
		Can the water feature be heard?	0 1 2 3 4
		If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?	0 1 2 3 4
	Immersion		QUAL AVG: 2.0
		Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?	0 1 2 3 4

Appendix D: Adapted Rubric with Scores for Thornton Place

VALUE	QUALITY	QUESTION	RATING: 0 to 4
AESTHETICS:			
		Used in reference to visual perceptions and impressions; clarity relating to landscape architecture	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Pull</i>			
	Visibility		QUAL AVG: 2.0
		Is the site/entrance visible and recognizable?	0 1 2 3 4
		Upon entering, are the uses and opportunities within the site obvious?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the area near and surrounding the water feature inviting?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the water feature compelling?	0 1 2 3 4
	Focus		QUAL AVG: 3.5
		Are there choices of activity/level of involvement?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there visible places to sit, to view, to linger?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are other people visible and appearing engaged in the site?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there something worth looking at?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Engagement</i>			
	Understanding		QUAL AVG: 2.0
		Does the visual quality, the form, line, color, texture, variety of the surrounding site combine in a way that is engaging?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the contextual placement of the water/feature appropriate with the nearby conditions?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature area feel safe, with open areas, vantage points, lighting, etc.?	0 1 2 3 4
	Delight		QUAL AVG: 2.7
		Is there an attractive movement or reflection in the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the water feature present a balance of novelty and familiarity?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are there different experiences and views available from nearby vantage points?	0 1 2 3 4
WELLNESS:			
		Considered in how people are influenced; contributing qualities that are enriching and positive	0 = NOT AT ALL; 4 = ABSOLUTELY
<i>Interaction</i>			
	Access		QUAL AVG: 2.5

		Is the water physically accessible; can it be touched/felt?	0 1 2 3 4
		Are options available for varied mobility to enjoy the water/water feature?	0 1 2 3 4
	Contact		QUAL AVG: 3.0
		Is there opportunity to choose a view near the water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Does the intended use of the feature invite human contact with water?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is there a likelihood of interaction with other people?	0 1 2 3 4
<i>Benefit</i>			
	Sensory Experience		QUAL AVG: 2.3
		Can the water be felt in the air?	0 1 2 3 4
		Can the water feature be heard?	0 1 2 3 4
		If there is a detectable smell, is it of water?	0 1 2 3 4
	Immersion		QUAL AVG: 1.7
		Does the water feature contribute to an atmosphere of being elsewhere?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is vegetation a noticeable and integrated part of the water feature area?	0 1 2 3 4
		Is the feature within the site reliable for regular or repeated use?	0 1 2 3 4

Appendix E: Observation Notes from University Village

Observation # 1: Tuesday 7/18 1-2

- Lots of Asian babies playing in diapers in the water while moms sit at table and watch
- Also a group of older white kids in normal clothes playing
- Beyond the water sculpture is a garden circle with tree and then 4 or 5 tables then another circle with a tree and sidewalk space before the street
- Woman openly changed diaper with baby standing on chair
- Saw two dogs
- Kids, from two different groups, all played the same game where they blocked the water coming out of the frogs' mouths from spraying the turtle
- Another mom changed baby's diaper
- Saw woman with cane, and separately saw someone wheeling a friend in the wheelchair
- Other passersby smiled when they saw the children playing
- Teenage couple played in water too for a brief moment
- Saw 3 more dogs
- Saw one of the security guards
- Gardens have barriers around them
- Most people are dressed in a way that denotes they care about how they express themselves, only a handful of exceptions like construction workers or inspectors
- Differences in paces of pedestrians—families and groups with strollers tend to walk slower than individuals
- Woman used drinking fountain

Observation #2: Thursday 7/20 4:00-5:00pm

- Did see some African-American men, two, that were less well-dressed and seemed less well-to-do, on Tuesday, I can't specifically recall seeing any
- Teenagers getting froyo and shopping
- Couple with froyo, woman with froyo, and couple with ice cream at the tables near me
- Cupcake crumbs on my table
- Close to the street so you can hear cars go by sometimes
- Meant to note last time that the tables and chairs aren't secured or tied together like at other places with outdoor seating but they are heavy, wrought-iron high-quality furniture
- Asian UW students with QFC groceries
- People seem more relaxed and in less of a hurry
- Mom and 2 kids sitting by the frog/turtle water sculpture eating froyo
- Group of 3 friends with molly moons
- Didn't notice this Tuesday but there are birds looking for crumbs around the tables

- People have moved some of the chairs at the tables to be closer to the water features
- Grandmother and grandson play in the water feature
- 2 Latino men that shopped at the Seattle Team Shop or sports shop stopped to watch the children playing, they are window cleaners
- Saw 3 dogs
- Taxi cab drove by, there is a stop sign at the crosswalk
- People walking through the thoroughfare usually walk faster than those walking along the store window fronts
- Professional looking mom with two sons didn't want them to play in the water but relented and then it was hard to get them away
- 2 teenage girls with Molly moons
- The 2 Latino men that walked by earlier have stopped to sit near the water features, both are on their phones
- Man in uniform across the street with broom and dustpan is cleaning the sidewalk
- 3 teenage boys with backpacks walked through the thoroughfare
- There is a directory by the crosswalk that people use
- A woman in the same uniform as the earlier man cleans the thoroughfare
- Asian father and daughter stop to play in the water feature
- Asian teenage girl stops to take picture of water feature
- 2 moms with young babies got Pasta and Co for dinner and sit at the table near me speak both English and a language I don't recognize
- Lots of couples, young families, families with teens, single shoppers, teenage groups
- Latino family with two kids stop to play in water feature
- Mom and daughter stop to play in water feature
- Saw 1 African-American girl in athletic clothes walk through thoroughfare

Observation #3: Sunday 7/23 3:00-4:00

- Sitting outside of Fireworks
- No one at water feature when I first sit there
- Two tables are occupied with men waiting for shoppers, one leaves on his own and another's wife comes by and they leave
- Now empty except me and a couple with ice cream and dog and then a single guy with a backpack that brought his lunch
- Family stops and son sits on ground and watches water feature
- Asian daughter and mother take picture of water feature
- Family with son takes their 2nd child out of the stroller to play but stays near mom to watch
- Father with two sons on bikes says "we'll get our ice cream and then come back and play with the turtles"
- Two kids pass by and mom points to show them water feature but the kids don't want to

- Service woman walks by again
- Asian boy plays in it but dad stops him when he gets too wet
- Two random employees walk by rolling a recycling cart and 3 waste bins (rec, comp, trash)
- Family with 2 kids lets kids sit on benches alone with froyo while parents go in to Fireworks
- Teenagers with ice cream, one walks through and says “no regrets” while the two other girls laugh
- Several families walk by and make comments about the water feature but don’t engage
- Asian family stops to take picture of parents in front of hanging flower pot and laugh as the water sprays close to them, then they try to take a picture in water feature but laugh again as they almost get sprayed
- Dad and 3 kids play in water, little girl walks under water after seeing middle brother do it
- Two other families join to either watch or play
- Now two little girls play in it, one tries to drink water and mom says no
- Older mom with Fireworks bag waiting for shoppers watch the kids in delight
- Asian father and son with soccer uniform play but dad is in a hurry
- Family with two kids that ate ice cream alone on bench are still here playing in the water
- Single mom takes baby out of stroller to play, he watches other kids while mom pulls chair over to the shade
- Preteen with family in Trophy comes out to play while waiting
- All tables near Pasta and Co full
- All the tables near the water feature are full except for a single chair under flower pot, two girls from 2 different families playing in the water
- Mom of one of the daughters is breastfeeding her baby
- Table with four chairs has an African-American family group with ice cream
- 2 chairs near Joie is a couple eating ice cream with 3 puppies in stroller
- 3 families, 4 families come up to look at it
- Another family comes up with a little boy, who feels the water and says “it’s too cold, it sprayed me!” before going to play in it again
- An older girl asks her mom if she can get wet and mom says okay
- 4 boys around 10 years old sit down on bench with ice cream cones and watch the other kids play
- 2 siblings come up to play and have swimsuits on
- 2 original families with the 2 daughters left
- Little boy comes up to watch, not sure where parents are, 5 minutes later a mom yells “Hugo!” and he runs back towards the mom who is upset that he ran off
- Maintenance person with cart full of trash bags rolls by
- Mom of the 2 siblings breastfeeds youngest daughter
- 4 boys that ate ice cream earlier come back to play but parents don’t want them to get wet and they are leaving to get a treat

- Mom with double stroller with 2 toddlers let the toddlers watch while they drink Jamba Juice

Observation #4: Thursday 8/3 1:50-2:50

- 6 year old boy playing in water, his mom sits in chair in shade of the flowerpot to watch, little boy is in his underwear
- Hispanic man from new restaurant by playground (can tell because he has shirt from restaurant) is taking break looking at his phone
- Asian family with daughter around 9 walks by, daughter smile and looks at boy
- Mom with 2 daughters with ice cream sit in shade near Joie, little girls are under 10, watch boy play, mom seemed suspicious of me sitting and taking notes and pictures
- Asian mom with son walk by and boy plays with the white boy, asks mom if he can stay and play (assuming, they spoke different language)
- Maybe more encounters happen here because it is narrower space, which encourages interaction
- Another mom with 2 daughters with Starbucks walk by but do not engage
- Asian mom with 2 little girls in dresses, 3 or 4 years old, come to play, mom warns sweetly “watch your dress, you might get wet”, they leave after a minute or two
- Young boy playfully screams every time he gets spraying, walks around area and looks into store window
- 2 security guards, one male and one female, walk through
- Little boy and his mom leave
- Asian mom with 5 year old son and 3 year old daughter come and play, mom sits in shade near Joie store
- Hispanic man that was on break leaves
- Little boy likes covering sprayers and little sister plays along while their mom takes pictures
- Woman brings 10 week old French bulldog and tried to get it to play in the water but it likes people watching, people come up to pet it and talk with the woman
- Young mom and dad roll stroller with young baby, mom gets her hand wet and spritzes baby
- Very well-dressed African-American woman sits at table near me with Starbucks drink
- Woman with French Bulldog has conversations with passersby for 5-8 minutes
- Another mom with 7 or 8 year old daughter with Molly moons comes by, daughter watches close to fountain but doesn’t want to get wet, goes to mom to eat ice cream
- A couple with a service dog brings dog up but dog doesn’t really interact
- Elderly woman crosses through area and walks close to fountain
- Woman with French bulldog comes back out from trophy cupcakes and daughter asks her questions about him and employee from Joie comes out to pet her too
- Daughter does funny voices imitating the animals
- Parent to new daughter playing in water who got wet said “oh no, you got zapped”

- Man with 2 daughters and a mom with a young son and toddler in stroller and grandma with grandson
- Grandma helps son take off shirt and shoes before playing
- Grandson squeals with delight as he goes through the water and asks his grandma to come in
- The younger daughter is scared to get wet, gets upset when all the sprayers turn on, but mom says it's okay
- Boy is running around and trips and fall and twists leg and gets upset, grandma runs to him and he cries for a bit then gets back to playing
- Grandma and the other different mom are sitting next to each other and start to chat
- Boy runs through the stream while 2 girls watch, older girl stops spray from turtle but then everyone laughs as she gets sprayed and they all turn on
- Mom with 2 older daughters, maybe 10 and 8 walk by and watch the other 2 girls playing in the water, they leave with their mom to play on the playground "just for 7 minutes then we have to get going"
- New mom with young daughter sit to watch
- 2 employees on break sit down at table next to me with Menchies
- Little girl climbs on rock with turtle and gets sprayed
- Girl asks if she can run through it and mom says "as long as you don't mind getting wet because I don't have a change of clothes for you"
- She doesn't want to get too wet so just gets her hands wet and cleans her sunglasses
- She goes to storefront window close up and looks at reflection before running back to mom and playing with chair next to mom and then playing with frog spraying near mom
- Hispanic mom with 2 preteens, daughter says "ooo look at the frogs" and they walk closer to the sculpture but don't directly engage
- The two girls from earlier that left with their mom to play on the playground come back and pass by water on their way out, mom says "we've gotta keep walking" and younger daughter says "bye wa wa"
- Mom with 2 preteen sons with ice cream sit by fountain in the shade, one of the sons covers the turtle sprayer while he finishes his ice cream
- Elderly woman sits in other chair in shade near fountain
- Dad with a maybe mentally-disabled daughter who says "look dad", maybe 12 or 13, sits on ground and takes picture with her phone
- 2 Asian men stop and one takes a picture
- Maintenance woman comes by and seeps fireworks storefront

Observation #5: Friday 8/4 1:00-2:00

- 4 kids, all under 5, playing, 2 of them seem to specifically have brought/worn swim gear

- 1 little boy with a black and white hat playing walked up to my water bottle and wanted to play with it, keeps walking toward Fireworks to play with sculpture animals, gets in the way of passersby who smiled as they walked around, happened multiple times
- 4 families total playing but 1 Asian mom and son, son is just rolling his stroller around
- New family arrives with 2 girls, one goes to take off dress but mom says she has to keep it on
- Several other families walk by and watch while walking but don't engage
- One of the little girls slips, mom comes to check but she is okay, just has a red mark
- The little boy jumps off rock, stumbles a bit but doesn't hurt himself
- He puts a cup over one of the sprayers, another little girl asks her mom for a cup, who gives her a plastic water bottle
- 9 kids now playing with the water feature
- Woman w/ 2 dogs comes up, 1 dog is curious about the water, the other isn't
- Another girl asks her mom for a cup for her and her sister, uses 2 cedar grove comp cups
- One of the moms breastfeeds
- I am sitting at east table near Fireworks
- Definitely more crowded than yesterday
- The kids use cups to fill with water or block the stream, girl with water bottle pours what she got into the other girls cup
- Asian boy continues to push stroller around, goes to talk to mom for a bit but doesn't interact with other kids
- Now there are four girls from three families and 2 boys from 2 families, all women, no dads
- Mom of a girl wearing tennis shoes gets mad that she got wet even though her friends were allowed to get all wet
- 2 new families arrive, an Asian boy and a girl wearing hats and a girl and a friend, both have visors and dress
- Asian mom with son and stroller returned something to the mom of the girl wearing tennis shoes. This group (2 moms, three kids) that they almost left
- Asian mom and the nanny of the 2 girls with the visor and dresses have the same Uppa stroller and they talk about that
- Mom of baby with black and white hat bought baby a bouncy ball
- 2 girls in dresses squeal in delight when they get wet
- Asian daughter with hat asks Mom to turn the water back on
- Now 8 families around fountain and 10 kids, smile at each other as they get sprayed and play together
- Another mom with 2 kids, 1 in stroller come up, girls in dresses and onesie
- Asian mom with boy and Uppa baby stroller leave
- Nanny with the 2 girls in dresses brings out chalk and toy fishes, girl shares with a boy
- Mom with girl Camilla in swimsuit gives her a towel but she gets it wet

- Nanny of the 2 girls in dresses and mom with the 2 kids talk, one sitting on bench and one sitting at chair near tree
- Asian boy with hat steps on turtle sprayer, mom says be careful
- Group of 4 ladies stops to take picture in front of flowers, nanny of the 2 girls in dresses asks if she can take one of all four of them
- 12 total kids playing
- The two ladies from earlier continue to talk about their daughter's hair and whether it will stay curly or not
- Their daughters run around and chase each other
- Passersby, 2 elderly women, walk by and smile
- Asian boy and white boy jump in puddles to splash
- Another couple walks by and stops to watch
- Babysitter with 3 kids, older than 5, come and watch but don't really play
- Original family, been here for 40 minutes, with baby in black and white hat and girl in swimsuit dry off and change into dry clothes
- 4 girls continue to do chalk
- Mom and son (8 years old) stop and watch, boy comes closer but water turns off and he walks away
- New family, mom with baby in holder and toddler son Enzo,, likes to watch but not get wet
- Asian son starts to talk to the nanny of the 2 girls about the Blue Angels flying by
- Mom with Asian daughter and son change into dry clothes
- New family with son and daughter with apple juice come up and watch how other kids are playing
- The new boy and Enzo play on the same rock and play nonverbally
- 2 new kids get hands and feet wet
- Enzo runs around fountain, talks to new girl about which frog will be next

Observation #6: Saturday 8/5 3:45-4:45

- No one playing in water when I arrived
- Couple at NE table, Asian man at SE table, family on bench with daughter who looks like she just got done playing
- Couple and Asian man leave, a single white guy in his mid-50s sits at NE table
- Grandmother by herself sits in chair
- Couple with toddler comes up and grandfather recognizes the dad's hat and they talk about Rhode Island outside of Boston
- Lesbian couple with son comes up and son plays before they walk on
- Group of 3 adults in 30's walk by, guy says "those frogs are being jerks to the turtle"
- An elderly woman stops and watches little boy, says he is adorable
- Family with 3 kids (2 girls and a boy)

- The elderly woman and her friend stand to the side and watch 4 kids play for 10 minutes
- Older kid maybe 12 or 13 with mom and grandparents sitting at SE table comes up to fountain but just watches
- 2 more boys come up and play under streams and sing spy songs, Asian kids smile and watch and giggle as water stops, they all laugh as water turns back on, grandparents watch
- Passersby smile and watch
- Asian kids moms talk on bench and the dads join and stand by bench and watch
- Another Asian kid with box from Din Tai Fung walks through, maybe 10, no engagement
- Family with 3 kids comes up, 2 white boys leave
- Dad holds toddler son and helps him touch water, little girl in dress plays and older boy 4 or 5 watches while he finishes molly moons
- Shoe brand Native very popular, like crocs but holes are smaller and have heels like Keds
- Asian girl in dress asks if she can change into swimsuit, mom says no
- Asian boy tells white dad and his 2 boys which one is going to spray first
- Another elderly woman stops for 5 min or so and watches by flowerpot
- Mom and daughter stop and watch near flowerpot while girl plays wooden whistle harmonica
- Man with 2 girls around 10 and 5 go into Trophy but older girl stops and dips fingers in water, goes in and orders, then comes back out and plays, does a few cartwheels on sidewalk
- Passersby walk by and watch
- Asian family leaves
- New girl comes up with purple shirt and blond hair, her grandma and brother are sitting at table west of tree
- 7 kids all playing, girl from previous bullet point, her brother joins in and cartwheel girls' younger sister joins her
- 2 girls leave, so now only 5 kids, they take turns going under the stream
- 3 new kids join, 2 brothers and 1 little girl in sunglasses, so now 8 kids, all laugh as little girl gets wet, she loves it and runs back and forth between fountains and her mom
- New couple with little girl in pink comes up and girl watches, another Asian girl comes up so 10 kids
- Brother of purple shirt trips and scrapes arm
- Now 12 kids, but some leave
- One of the kids starts to splash the others, mom asks him to stop
- Sunglasses girl and girl in pink go to the same turtle
- 7 kids, one blond 5 year old boy runs around feature but doesn't engage directly, just watches, then pretends to karate chop water, another girl is wearing swimsuit
- Blond boy asks parents to open his new toy dinosaur, he plays with it in water
- Couple walks by and smiles
- Girl in swimsuit and older boy talk
- New little toddler boy joins and gets wet, runs back to dad

- New toddler girl joins, watches at first before running around and then sticking hand in water
- Older couple stops to watch
- European family with older kids in 20s walks by and look, talk in different language
- A new brother and sister join in, 6 kids and Asian mom with baby holds him and lets him watch
- Gay couple with 3 year old son and 4 year old son speaking English and other language join in, still 6 kids total
- One of the gay dads takes a picture, his older brother drinks Rachel's Ginger Beer and watches, gets a little closer as he eats chicken tenders

Observation #7: Thursday 8/10 1:00-2:00

- Same family is here that was here (last time?) with the girl in the swimsuit and the baby in the black and white that the parents bought balls for
- A nanny and her friend are talking on bench, her little boy is playing on rocks and tells him not to
- 2 European preteens sit on bench and talk in different language, as they leave they put hands in water
- Mom with little boy in red hat, he squats behind frog and waits for it to turn on
- Interracial couple with 2 girls sit at table near frogs northeast table
- Another European family with 2 boys come up, 1 preteen one around 10
- Little boy in red hat goes up to frog next to them but they don't talk to each other
- Woman in hijab comes up and gets fingers wet
- Older couple walks through on the way to Trophy cupcakes, wife runs finger near one frog's mouth but it's not spraying water
- Little boy in red hat, mom tells him something in different language
- Younger daughter of interracial couple comes up, yells out when water doesn't spray, quickly gets soaked when it does
- Grandma and grandson in stroller comes up and she tries to figure out how water turns on, runs hand over frog sprayer
- The little girl of the interracial couple comes up to rock near stroller, interacts with and touches grandson
- Dorky mom and two sons around 10 and 8 come up and get wet, younger one wants to stay
- Passerby, mom with kid in stroller, asks the dad of the 2 girls (actually 3 because he has a tiny baby strapped to chest) how old one of them is
- Asian mom and son around six sit at southeast table he has swim clothes and shoes on, plays on each of the rocks
- Mom brings her young daughter up and lets her get wet, maybe 1-2 years old, can stand, at first she doesn't like it but then does it more and smiles, mom protects her from getting sprayed by one that is about to turn on

- Another man with 3 year old in pink hat comes up, girl (Lola) comes up to water, gets wet and runs away
- Her mom comes up to frog with her and says “hello frog”
- Babysitter with 2 girls in dresses, they play in water, make it spray in different directions with their fingers
- Young boy comes up and dips head in before running to catch up with parents
- 2 girls in dresses ask the mom of the one year old “what do babies do in the water?”
- Brother and sister, 6 and 8, come out of Trophy cupcake, watch the 2 girls playing in the water, boy Liam stays behind to watch
- Water turns off and girls pat the frogs to try to get it to turn on
- Asian family walks by, slows to smile and watch the girls playing
- Dad and son come up, son smiles and watches water
- One of the girls tries to talk to him but he doesn’t respond, walks back and forth between mom in line at Trophy cupcakes and dad standing outside and the water feature
- Girl stands on rock and pretends she’s going to the bathroom
- Other sister Elizabeth took shoes off but she doesn’t (didn’t finish thought)
- An old lady walks by and looks
- Asian mom with young son and daughter maybe 7 and 4
- Girl’s name is Elizabeth and so is the Asian daughter
- Older girl in dress is Annabelle
- 7 year old boy is very talkative, his sister stays on perimeter
- 7 year old and 2 sisters take turns going under water and talking to each other
- His mom says they have to go and Charlie says “bye guys”
- Charlie stomps on each of the turtles before leaving
- Another mom with 4 or 5 year old in stroller explains that the frogs are all spraying the turtle with water as they walk into Trophy
- Woman in 50s walks through area and smiles at the 2 girls
- Elizabeth tells Annabelle she’s washing her shoes and Annabelle takes off her shoes so she can play too, Annabelle climbs on rocks and babysitter asks “is that safe?” and Annabelle nods and babysitter says “yeah I guess so.”
- 2 female security guards walk through
- African-American mom with 3 kids stop and watch for a few minutes
- Asian grandpa and granddaughter speaking different language come up, he laughs as the girl runs through the water
- The true interactions are often hard to get on camera because I get so wrapped up in it
- Granddaughter seems to be around the same age as Annabelle and Elizabeth, she plays with them, Grandpa takes pictures with his digital camera
- Annabelle notices tropical umbrella (“bella”) in Trophy window and runs over, the 2 other girls follow

- Mom and son come up, he goes up to water and laughs, Asian girl is standing next to him and laughs too
- Asian girl's mom and grandma come up, mom warns her in different language to watch out because the water is going to spray her but she gets wet and both the boy's mom and friend laugh and her family laughs and we exchange glances and smiles
- An elderly lady walks through, Annabelle almost runs into her, lady smiles and says hello

Observation #8: 8/18 1:45-2:45

- 3 siblings in swim gear playing while parents talk on bench, 2 sisters, 5 or 4 and 3 or 2 with 2 year old brother
- Little boy watches from trophy cupcake door then joins in
- Little 1 or 2 year old girl in dress joins and boy 5 or 6 joins in
- Total of 7 kids
- Boy 7 or 8 sits on side and watches while eating Menchie's
- Now still the 3 siblings and the ½ year old girl in dress, she mimics the other kids
- Oldest sister crawls under stream
- Asian girl 7/8 and brother 4/5 joins
- Group of girls in 20s wait for friends in Trophy and watch kids play
- 9 kids now, another Asian brother and sister and a little girl join, the little girl sits on turtle and then gets sprayed when all the frogs turn on
- They all turn off and they guess which ones will go next
- Passerby with dog, oldest girl sibling asks if she can pet it, owner talks to mom while kids pet it
- Kid 9/10 and his sister or friend 8/9 that was sitting on sideline eating Menchie's joins in and now there are 8 kids
- The kids are all talking to each other, spraying water
- The 9/10 year old kid's mom sits at one of the tables talking on phone, is a little upset that boy and sister got wet and tells them to come back and sit at table
- 3 siblings leave in their wagon with mom
- 2 siblings with angry mom come back, blond kid from trophy cupcakes comes back, new Asian baby 1 year old joins with mom, blond kid has younger sister, mom helps her stand her water
- Total of 7 kids
- Blond kid is standing in front of sprayer and one of the older kids tells him to watch out, but another sprayer gets him and everyone laughs
- 2 siblings angry mom leaves
- A new 2 siblings come up, brother is interested, maybe 8 or so, leaves after a few seconds
- 2 sisters 9 or 10 come up, feel the water, watch for 10-20 seconds then leave

- 2 siblings with angry mom come back, brother 8 year old Jessie comes back, asks Asian siblings how old they are, sister is 9, brother is 7, sister asks how old is he
- Asian brother and sister start splashing each other, play fighting, go into sun and dry off
- Smallest girl, friend of Asian brother and sister, is soaking wet, maybe 2/3 and very vocal
- Smallest girl chases Asian girl around rocks and bench, brother joins after a bit
- 2 boys start playing together
- Jessie's sister joins, watches the three play tag, smiles, she is the only 1 at fountain and goes back to her mom, they leave but Jessie goes back to fountain one more time before catching up to mom and sister
- No one plays in fountain for 7 minutes before little girl comes back from bathroom and plays while 2 Asian siblings watch, she asks them to join because "she's all lonely"
- 13 year old girl with family pretends to go toward fountain but fakes it, she and family laughs
- 3 sisters walk by holding hands (15, 10, 8) and 8 year old watches as they walk by and says "oh no, they're getting the turtles all wet"
- Mom and dad and daughter sit at southeastern table with Menchies, girl is 6 year old, watches fountain while eating
- Mom with 2 toddlers in stroller stops near western tree to check phone, boy in stroller watches and points
- Little boy 3 or 4 with mom and baby in stroller are near thoroughfare, mom says "c'mon we're going this way" (toward Ben Bridge) but boy runs toward fountain and mom lets him play for a few seconds before encouraging him to come back, he goes back but turns around and watches for a little bit
- Maybe this one is more successful than others due to its scale, it is approachable and has animals

Observation #9: 8/18 2:45-3:45

- Asian grandparents and toddler girl 2 years old comes up, grandma leads her to water while grandpa watches, they laugh as she gets wet
- Another set of Asian grandparents, a girl 4 or 5, and brother 2 or 3 and mom come up, mom lets boy out of stroller, grandpa and mom take picture, grandma dips hand in water and plays with the grandkids
- Group of teenagers wait outside Fireworks and look (this was before family came) at empty fountain, think it's cute, more friends join and they go into Fireworks
- Boy gets too wet, starts crying
- See picture for passersby slowing down and watching
- Girl eating Menchies with mom and dad, has cast on left wrist, goes up to play and dad warns her not to get her left hand wet
- Girls smile at each other as they wait for the water to turn back on
- Menchies girl leaves with family

- Boy 8 or so, speaks different language, smiles at me as he gets wet, fills juice bottle with water, talks to himself, pours water back out and goes from sprayer to sprayer and pouring
- Asian sister and brother with mom and grandparents, mom changed them into dry clothes, they leave
- Father and toddler boy come up, dad holds toddler as he outstretches hand to touch water, they keep moving and leave
- Preteen girls sit on bench and watch the 8 year old boy
- 3 African-American men come up and look at fountain
- 2 Asian women or wives join, one woman poses with fountain and the other takes a picture as she touches water
- Mom with daughter and girl's friend, maybe 6 or so, come up, mom doesn't want them to get wet, they climb on rocks and walk around sing song "hop on turtles"
- One of the girls talks or tries to talk to boy, she splashes him and he laughs, speaks in his own language
- Boy's parents are sitting at Pasta and Co table
- Mom, grandma, and 2 boys 7 and 4/5 come up, 2 boys watch and stay at rocks for a bit before following their mom and grandma into Margaret O'Leary store
- 8 year old's mom joins him and talks to him as he plays for a minute and goes back to her table
- Eastern European or Russian 2 moms, a grandma, and 2 boys 4 and 2, a baby in a stroller, boys come up and play in water
- 8 year old tries to talk to them in his language
- 2 year old gets really wet when all of them come on, gets upset, 8 year old says "don't cry" in English
- 8 year old and 4 year old laugh with each other
- 4 year old tries to stomp on frog to get it to turn on
- 8 year old gets splashed by 4 year old, gets pretend mad, looks at me and smiles and shrugs
- 8 year old likes attention
- 2 preteen girls still are sitting on bench
- 2 year old brother of 4 year old joins
- Mom with autistic or somehow mentally disabled boy, 5 or so
- Mom of 4 and 2 year old give them each a coin to put them in water
- 2 year old gets too wet again and gets picked up by mom
- 8 year old borrows coin to play with and also puts it in his mouth
- 4 year old Mateo and 8 year old continue to play together and interact, 8 year old taps 4 year old on shoulder and makes hand signal
- Seemingly homeless Asian man walks near fountain and talks to himself and goes into Fireworks

- Mom of Asian boy comes by and offers the two boys a toy dinosaurs to play with but 8 year old doesn't want it
- Mom and little girl 2/3 comes up
- 8 year old grabs small plastic toy from mom, shows it to 4 year old, it can collect water and Mateo watches 8 year old squirt it
- Mateo and family leave, Mateo tries to say bye to 8 year old but he is facing away and doesn't hear him
- Homeless man comes out of Fireworks, throws something in trash, wanders a bit and then goes into Sole Food shoe store
- 8 year old boy goes back to family and leaves
- Little girl plays with sprayers from behind, doesn't ever go in center
- No one playing in fountain for last 10 minutes
- Kids really like the steel colorful animal toys that are outside Fireworks

Observation #10: 8/18 3:45-4:45

- Dad with 9 year old girl, 7 year old boy and toddler in stroller walks by on the phone, 7 year old walks up to through fountain as 1 is spraying, as he leaves all of them turn on, he turns back towards it surprised and says "cool!" before he keeps walking to catch up to family
- No engagement for first 15 minutes
- Teenage couple walks up, guy dips hands in and washes them off, girl mimics him
- Large Asian family with 3 kids in 20s, 2 girls and 1 boy, their parents and grandparents, stop to take pictures in front of flower pots and sitting at northeast table, father taking picture stands in center of fountain, family warns him he might get wet
- Indian or middle-eastern guy in 20's in grey sweatpants and sweatshirt listening to music on headphones comes and sits on bench, his mom or grandma in hijab and long pants and long shirt joins him
- Parents with 8 year old pink skirt girl come up and let her play in it, she immediately runs through and enjoys getting wet, tries to drink the water, parents tell her no
- Guy and his grandma smile as they watch the girl, grandma smiles at me, they get up and leave
- Another mom with 2 year old toddler son join, she takes his shoes off, son points and laughs, other girl says "it's water" and "I'm getting wet"
- Boy just watches at first, then goes up and dips hand in
- Mom and 2 boys, Christian and Wyatt, 10, and a girl Julia, 8 or so, come to bench with Molly moons, 1 of the boys runs through fountain when no water is on, girl runs through side when only 1 is spraying
- 2 year old gets wet on face and back when they all turn on, gets scared and runs to mom but still enjoys watching the other kids play, his mom is sitting on ground and he is sitting on her lap, she takes a selfie of them

- Pink skirt girl gets sprayed when they all turn on, kids on bench laugh with her
- Julia and her brothers take turns running through it and crawling under the stream
- Family on bench leave and go into Fireworks
- Mom with 2 girls, 8 year old and 7 year old come up, mom says “look girls if you get all wet, you’ll be wet for the car ride home,” they say “that’s fine”
- The 3 girls together (pink skirt girl and 2 sisters) immediately start talking to each other and try to figure out the pattern
- 2 sisters Zoe and Ellie, start chasing birds and watching them in tree garden
- Older sister Zoe chases 1 bird and almost runs into a man, he smiles at her and mom
- Middle-eastern family comes with 8 year-old girl she stands on rock and watches in amazement for a minute or two
- Pink skirt girl wraps up in towel and hugs her mom
- Mom with toddler son, 1 or 2, reaches hand out but is afraid to get wet, walks around, touches water and tries to get boy to do it but water turns off, pink skirt girl says “you have to push the frog and then it will turn on,” his mom says “oh thank you, can you say thank you” and pink skirt mom says it’s time to go, boy’s mom says to her “she told us the secret” and girls mom says “oh there is a secret?” and boy’s mom repeats what girl told them and her mom laughs and says “I don’t know about that” and the two moms smile and laugh and talk a little more before they both leave
- Couple with 10 year old boy, boy comes up and dips hand in quickly
- Old man stands outside trophy cupcakes and smiles as he watches fountain
- Mom with 2 girls, 11 and 9 year old, 9 year old stands on rock and watches for a moment before catching up no one plays for
- Dad and son about 8, son is really excited and explains it to dad
- Zoe and Elle come back with mom
- Boy immediately starts talking to them and they play together
- They “cut” the water
- When water stops, Elle and Zoe’s mom says it’s time to go
- Boy asks dad if he wants to play with him in fountain and dad says he doesn’t want to get wet
- Mom with baby in body holder and son 3 or so sit at northeastern fountain, son watches the 8 year old boy
- 8 year old boy is entertaining himself, telling a story and telling his dad what he’s doing
- Mom with 2 sons, 2 and 6, 2 year old Calvin runs up and touches water, 6 year old says “I feel bad for that turtle” and other 8 year old boy says “I do too”
- 8 year old asks dad “does this water have chlorine in it”
- 3 year old redhead joins says hi to other boys buy they don’t hear him
- They all scream/laugh when all of them spray

- All four boys are playing together and they coordinate so that all the frogs mouths are covered
- Calvin's older brother sees a bee near 8 year old and lets him know, then they watch where the bee flies
- Calvin's older brother asks mom if they can go to play area and they leave
- The 8 year old Henry's family join him, a girl Sadie 10 or so and 7 year old boy join him at fountain but are much more quiet than he is
- The 7 year old boy is actually with a separate family, he sits near main turtle and Henry warns him "you don't want to do that" but he gets right arm wet and goes to his mom
- Mom with 4 year old girl and little boy come, girl asks if she can get wet but mom says no because they're going to dinner soon

Appendix F: Observation Notes from Green Lake Village

Observation #1: 7/28 Friday 2:30-3:30

- The tables around Kitanda and Menchies on the east side are full whereas the tables on the north side of Kitanda are more empty
- Immediately when I got there two families with their moms were playing in the water stream and watched it and then another family mimicked and did it too
- Family—two girls and two boys, 1 older boy, 1 older girl, 1 girl, 1 boy
- Kids like to walk on bench
- Kids came out of Menchies, group of 5-8 kids, two had plastic chess pieces, put them in water stream
- Lunch crowd has died down, whereas most of the front western tables at PCC were full when I got here
- Boy, maybe 10, waits for dad to finish shopping and puts leaf in water stream
- Some people/kids put trash in recycling
- Many white people, have only seen 1 African American woman and 1 father and son that were middle-eastern or Indian
- Earlier around 1:45, a little girl played on the benches and went and sat at a table with a random guy in 20's, mother and the guy shared a look and laughed
- A mom and pre-teen daughter and about 10 year-old son sat at table behind me and the kids played a game with a soda can and running around the benches
- Woman with maintenance cart comes from inside Menchies outside and sweeps the leaves away from the water fountain
- 2 white parents I think are here to help child buy apartment, mom walks through taking pictures of the space and face-timing child, later the dad walks out with a form
- Maintenance woman wears green vest embroidered with her name and name of company
- Asian mom and daughter walk out of Menchies, daughter slows as she notices water feature, mom says something in another language and lightly pushes her daughter along
- Two teenagers sit at Menchies table with food from PCC
- Grandma with grandchild sits at PCC table with the baby grandchild in stroller and stops to have a snack
- Mom and 2 young kids walk out of stairway from garage, pass water feature but don't engage and go into Menchies
- Girl and her mom and dad on bike come through the Western entrance, girl watches a crow that is sitting on a bench, then touches the water before putting the bike on the bike rack with her parents
- 3 other families with kids have passed water feature with no engagement
- Father and 7/8 year old daughter walk by with no engagement

- Family with 3 boys, maybe mom and nanny come up from garage and 2 younger boys dip fingers in water then they go into Menchies, older boy sits at PCC table to read book before brother comes out and gets him to come into Menchies
- Mom with daughter and son come out of Menchies and mom and son sit at table but daughter stands near the water and eats her froyo, watches bird walk around before going to the brother, still standing
- 3 preteen girls walk by in conversation, 1 looks at water feature but no engagement
- 1 mother and son come out of PCC with son in the grocery cart and the son yells “water!” with smile on face as they walk towards the elevator
- Man in suit with briefcase and on the phone comes up to bench with water, looks at it, then walks to sit on the northern wooden bench
- Family with 2 boys come up from garage, older one says “Water and comes up to NE bench, splashes water around and does the same thing with the SW bench while sibling watches
- Mom with daughter and son (same as one 5 bullet points up) leave, walk carefully through the bottom three benches and upper two to get to trash cans near PCC entrance, son lightly touches water as they leave
- One of the moms with the younger daughter and son leave Menchies and also walk through the water feature, son also gently touches water before they all walked downstairs
- Two of the previously mentioned groups (see notes for details) are meeting for Menchies, all are now sitting on large bench at southern edge
- Mom and 7 year old son with toddler in stroller sit on bench next to me with Menchies, girl toddler in stroller spilled froyo all over her shirt, mom took girls shirt off and let her eat ice cream standing up on the bench
- Employee from PCC comes out and wipes down PCC tables
- Kids that were part of the two families meeting up, 2 sons play game racing from near my spot to climbing up the bench they are sharing with other family

Observation #2: 8/3 3:15-4:15

- Chairs in front of Kitanda are not very comfortable for sitting in for a long period of time
- When I first got here mom with young son and daughter were playing with water on benches while eating ice cream
- 5 tables near PCC are full so there are a lot empty
- Young mom with toddler in stroller takes her out of stroller and introduces her to the water
- Toddler walks over to the other bench and puts a blade of grass in the water
- Bird lands on one of the benches and mom shows toddler, who runs over to it and watches it fly away
- Toddler walks up to 2 teenagers at front table who smile at her
- Maybe homeless man sits on large bench near street, grumpy, takes off shoe and looks in it
- Toddler runs up plaza toward man that is walking through and mom chases after her

- 2 girls around 6 or 7 have sticks and play in water
- One of the teenagers at the front table uses water to clean hands
- Xfinity worker walks through and splashes water with hands
- Teenage couple fighting/arguing at table behind me at Kitanda
- Green Lake Village Apartments are 5 stories tall above 1 story of PCC/retail
- I am sitting at table on corner of Kitanda facing PCC entrance and a few feet away from benches
- Seemingly homeless man walks up to table and has conversation with someone eating but she quickly gets up to leave
- Toddler is still running around with mom, water makes her squeal
- I think the mom is Russian or Eastern European, speaking a different language
- Nice breezes coming through, doesn't feel as hot as it did at Thornton Place or U Village
- Homeless man that had conversation with lady, lady comes back out and brought him food, he pauses a minute before digging in
- Mom with 2 toddlers walks up from garage, son notices water and looks back at it as he goes in to PCC
- Mom with 2 girls sees someone they know, the mom with 2 sons above, stops near benches to chat, 2 girls play with water while the 2 boys of the other mom don't engage
- 2 teenagers sit on large wooden bench on south edge, in swim suits and eating Menchie's
- A different mom with a toddler son and baby on a hip walks through, son asks "is this where you play in the water?" and mom replies "mmm I don't think so"
- PCC employee comes out to clean tables
- The two teenagers stand on benches and walk across, seem self-conscious then then sit on the benches
- Asian mom and son come out of Menchie's, he watches teenagers and plays in the water a bit
- 3 elderly women walk to PCC, one sticks hand in water, and cools herself off with her hand
- Braver teenager lays down on bench and dares/peer pressures other girl into laying down too, other girl says she's cold and wraps herself up in towel
- Dog is being walked and tries to drink the water that is falling down from bench
- Grandparents with 2 grandsons walk by but don't engage
- The mom with the 2 young toddlers that walked into PCC and the son looked back, they exit PCC and mom lets daughter walk in the water but not get too wet
- Man exits PCC and has a quick conversation with woman with dog
- Passersby (4 or 5) watch dog playing and laugh
- Another 2 women stop to watch dog interacting
- Woman who is by herself walks by and gets hands wet and cools off arms
- Young dad with 2 twin girls tries to convince the twins to play
- Grandma with 2 girls stands near the girls as they play
- The 4 younger girls watch the teenagers

- The twins finally play in water and dad gets their head wet with his hands
- Mentally handicapped girl splashes in water with her grandmother
- Mom with 2 sons and dad with 2 kids walk by, no engagement
- Dad helps twins and plays with twins for at least 15 minutes
- Passerby smiles as he walks by the three of them
- Another passerby, a mom with 3 sons, walks up from PCC garage and has a short sweet conversation with the dad as they walk by

Observation #3: 8/4 3:30-4:30

- 2 boys in matching shirts and little girl playing, boys dip their head in water, girl is going back and forth on a bench running, an elderly woman, not sure if she is related but says something to the little girl
- Little girl is drinking the water and then squirts it out of mouth like a fountain
- An elderly couple stops to talk to her dad and brother who are sitting at a table by PCC
- Another little girl in wetsuit with babysitting or mom and a table takes a cup
- A father and a daughter sit on the bench closest to the PCC entrance
- A mom and son, same one from yesterday at U Village where the son was in his underwear, they got a popsicle and an ice cream sandwich and sat at a table near PCC to eat it
- Little girl in wetsuit fills cup with water and pours it out on dry concrete, interacts briefly with family waiting on the dry bench between Menchie's door and large wooden bench on southern end
- Little girl's babysitter is talking to her own mom on the phone
- Girl in 20s with dog goes to water and cups some water in her hand and rubs it on the dog's belly to cool it off
- Boy Peter finishes his popsicle and gets cup from inside so he can play the same game the little girl is playing, he goes right up to her and fills cup under bench and then pours it on a dry spot, girl watches then goes to new bench to get water
- Peter goes to her bench and tries to talk to her but she doesn't talk back
- Peter pours cup of water near girl's nanny and says "woah that went fast" and nanny says "yeah that's pretty cool"
- Peter likes to watch what direction the water goes in after he pours it
- Girl wants nanny's big plastic cup so she dumps out ice and gives it to her
- Peter starts to navigate around tables
- Group that is gathered around dry bench with planter 9 of them, all on phones
- 3 boys and a girl under 10 walk through to Menchie's, two out of the four play/dip their hands in the water on their way
- Girl in 20s walks by and dips hand in the water
- Little girl puts her smaller cup in big cup and pours
- Peter's mom doesn't have wedding ring

- Peter randomly says “Mommy?” as he is walking around and she says “yes?” and he says “I love you” and she says “I love you too Peter”
- Little girl spins and empties water, Peter copies her and does it too
- Little girl dumps water on head and shows her nanny
- Peter experiments with jumping with cup full of water
- Mom and daughter eating Menchies watch Peter as he does this, her brother joins them
- Peter experiments with throwing cup full of water in the air
- 7 tables, including mine, are full at PCC, 1 table at Kitanda, 2 tables at Menchies, three people on dry bench with planter, 3 people on wooden bench
- Man with Amazon prime bags in a cart comes through and back, waits for little girl to move before he walks through and smiles
- Peter gets a new cup
- 2 guys who are strangers start talking on the large wooden bench
- Peter fills new cup with water then leaves
- Mom and daughter and grandma who went to Menchies and sat at table at PCC walk back towards large staircase and mom encourages daughter to dip leg in water as they pass
- 2 of the boys that went into Menchies come and walk across benches
- PCC employee who cleans tables and waters plants asks boys on northwest bench to move so she can fill watering can
- Third boy joins the 2 boys and they chase each other around the space
- Mom and young daughter in swimsuit, girl plays in water at most northwest bench
- 3 boys and their friend/sister play and splash each other
- Peter and his mom leave
- The mom of the 3 boys and girl says it’s time to go so they run to the northern wooden bench and jostle each other, mom stops to take posed picture of them sitting on the bench
- Little girl and her nanny leave
- Seemingly homeless man sits at table next to me, reads newspaper, smells armpits
- Mom and daughter come out of Menchies and play in water for a bit, mom dips toes in
- Boy walks through to Menchies with mom, dips hand in water
- 4:25, 4 PCC tables, 1 Kitanda, 1 Menchies, dry bench with planter and large southern wooden bench are full
- Grandparents with grandson come out of Menchies and sit at southern PCC table
- A kid with his dad plays on sewer lids outside of Kitanda, when he runs across it, it makes a noise

Observation #4: 8/5 12-1

- 3 or 4 people sitting on northern large wooden bench
- 2 parents with son, a father and son, a dad and 2 daughters all walk by without engaging

- Group of 3 teenage boys and 1 girl Asian/middle-eastern, come and sit at table at PCC, one of the boys comes to water bench and pretends to sit down but doesn't, one of the other teens comes and dips his hand
- 6 tables at PCC being used
- Teenage group is associated a couple at another table, they get up to leave and teen girl asks if she can pet a bulldog sitting at another table
- 1 table outside Kitanda and 1 outside Menchies being used and 2 people sitting at southern large wooden bench
- Daughters that own bulldog give him treats and train him to sit
- Mom with 3 girls from PCC come and sit on the dry spots of the wet benches
- Dad and grandparents join them and dad says now your shoes are all wet and asks other daughter to get out of there
- Still 6 tables outside of PCC being used
- Elderly woman dips hand in water to clean them off
- One of the benches, northwest bench, has the pipes that are secured under the bench have become unsecured and are visible, woman and her mom pass by, the woman is in her 20's and looks curiously or with disgust at the pipes
- Good number of people eating lunch are in athletic gear
- So far have seen 4-5 Amazon prime workers (come out carrying or rolling a # of bags labeled Amazon Prime) and it has only been 20 minutes
- Woman who looks like she just worked out walks through benches and gets feet wet
- Note: hard to get pics of adults interacting with water feature because it is usually very short
- Dad with the 3 daughters and grandparents come back out of PCC, girls go toward benches but dad warns them not to interact with it, they still walk near it as they walk away
- Couple in their 20s looks at benches and girl makes a comment but no engagement
- 8 tables being used at 12:30
- Similar to Thornton Place in that there are single people/individuals that feel comfortable eating alone outside
- Asian mom and daughter come to go to PCC, daughter stops at northeast bench and dips feet in but mom says something in a different language to get her to move along
- 3 preteen girls come up stairs from garage with a mom, they are a group of friends, two of them come up to northeast and northwest benches and stand on them before going in to store
- 12:40 now only 3 PCC tables being used
- Couple carrying toddler son walk out by and go into Kitanda but decide to go to Menchies instead, when they walk by again toddler son reaches out to water but dad doesn't let him
- Mom with young toddler maybe 2, come up to northwest bench and play, dad comes out and they tell daughter it's time to go, but mom has to pick her up to leave
- Guy in his 20s on phone puts foot in water while waiting for girlfriend

- Mom and dad with young son who came at beginning to eat lunch at PCC table leave, boy doesn't engage with water but looks at it and smiles as his mom helps him get on his bike
- Middle-eastern man with double stroller lets older daughter out to play, she runs around benches and holds hand in water while her little sister and dad watch
- Dad and son walk into PCC, son notices unsecured pipes/tubes and points it out to dad, he acknowledges and they walk in
- 6 tables at PCC being used
- Same young toddler and her mom are dad were eating at northern wooden bench, they let her go back to bench to clean hands, dad helps her then picks her up
- Couple with 5 or 6 year old girl and grandparents come up and let daughter play, she grabs leaves and watches them go down
- One of the 3 preteen girls does the same thing with a leaf, friend comes up and joins her, mom comes up and the girls explain the game
- Young toddler girl and girl 5/6 year old interact on same bench, grandparents watch her
- 5 or 6 year old shows baby girl a leaf

Observation #5: 8/5 2:30-3:30

- 2 tables outside Kitanda, 2 Menchies, 3 PCC, I am sitting on northern wooden bench, 2 guys with dogs meet each other at let dogs sniff each other on southern wooden bench
- 2 lesbians with furry dog go to northwest bench and splash water on him to cool him off, passersby stop and smile, 1 lady talks to them
- Sign near gate of staircase from garage and another one near tables at PCC say "be a good neighbor, tethering of dogs not permitted"
- Mom with 7 year old daughter and baby on hip walk by but don't engage
- Young couple who are eating lunch at PCC tables has toddler daughter who says "wa wa!" but no engagement
- Another lady with dog joins the young couple and toddler at the table after letting dog drink water at southern benches
- Young boy 5 or 6 walks through and walks along border of tree box that is near benches but doesn't engage with water feature
- 2 boys outside of Menchies run up and play on southern wooden bench, jump from one level to the next and run around tree near the bench
- 2 Spavia employees get Menchies
- Woman in 20s at Kitanda dips feet into northwest bench
- 2 couples with kids walk up and the 2 kids 7/8 year old girl and 8/9 year old boy stop and dip hand in water as the adults watch before moving forward, mom and son go 1 way, rest go into PCC, daughter comes out of PCC, doesn't find son/mom, and runs back into PCC
- 4 teenage girls outside Menchies

- Same boy (young boy 5 or 6 above) comes out of Menchies with mom and dad and older brother, puts foot on bench but mom pulls him away
- Young couple with girl toddler eating lunch finishes and lets girl play
- Mom with toddler in stroller walks into PCC but stops to get hands wet and splash her face
- 7 tables at PCC being used
- Still a fair # of people in athletic gear but not as much as this morning
- Dad with 2 daughters walk through N/S way but don't engage
- Couple with little toddler boy and baby finish eating lunch, boy runs back and forth between water and table at PCC, feels water with hands, mom and dad join him as they throw lunch away, dad dips hands in water
- 2 passersby throw lunch away too and smile at the boy, dad and boy play for 10 min or so
- Grandma and granddaughter dips hand in before grandma encourages them to go
- Dad points out bird to boy that landed on another bench
- Same mom that splashed her face comes out and does it again, boy watches with curiosity, mom spritzes some water onto toddler in stroller
- Boy sings to himself, splashes with feet, mom comes back and does it a third time
- Dad shows boy how to recycle then they race back to their table
- Dad with baby girl in stroller sits on edge of my wooden bench, makes it hard to see benches
- Man with French bulldog lets the dog drink water from benches and sniff other benches
- Mom and daughter come out of Kitanda and girl notices water, but doesn't engage

Observation #6: 8/10 2:30-3:30

- Fountains not interacted with for the first 5 minutes
- Mom with 2 girls walk through and they look at it, mom says "that's cool" and one of the girls agrees as they walk into Menchies
- Asian mom with girl in pink hat (same from U Village?) leave table, girl asks if she can play in water
- 6 tables outside PCC being used
- I am sitting outside Menchies and Kitanda
- 3 of the people at PCC have dogs
- Another 2 families walk out of Menchies without interacting
- The northwest bench whose pipes were exposed is now fixed
- Mom with baby in stroller stops by northwest bench and gets fingers wet to get baby before going into PCC
- Grandpa, father, and son all in swim gear and bucket hats come up to northwest table, son is maybe 10 or 11 comes up to bench, middle on east side and dips hand in and walks through and touches northwest one
- When I got here at 2:30, there were 3 people sitting on northern wooden bench, 1 lady was talking to a millennial with 2 poodles

- Asian mom and son, 7 or 8, walk by, boy looks but no engagement
- Mom with 3 years old both have popsicles and sit at PCC table, son sees water but no engagement, when he sits at table he turns to the side to look at a dog that is tied to a chair at their table but it isn't their dog
- Another woman tied dog to trash cans near PCC walks through water before laying down facing entrance
- Group of 11 kids walk through to Menchies, two kids at the front of the group jump on sewer plates and make noise
- Mom with 3 girls walk out of PCC, one of them sticks their shoes on top of the bench, 2 other girls look back and watch but they don't engage, only does it for a second or two
- Now only 3 tables being used at PCC, the grandfather, son, and father; mom and boy with popsicles; and guy in 40s or 50s eating
- 3 teens on 1 phone walk through, get confused which direction to go and walk through area without engagement
- Son of the father and grandfather pours rest of plastic water bottle on to bench
- Woman on phone walking through and dips hand in
- Dad with 2 girls all arrive to get their bikes and don't engage but look at it
- Mom with toddler shows toddler the northeast bench, boy Jonah that had popsicle earlier walks up and they talk to each other
- 5 of the group of 11 from earlier, all boys, come up and play on southern bench
- Athletic dresses but overweight father and 14 year old son come out of PCC, boy sees kids playing and plays too
- Couple with young son and daughter and they both play in water at northwest bench
- Another father and son come out of Menchies, 4 or 5 year old wants to get his feet wet, dad helps him take off shoes, he gets on top of Southern bench then another one, his sister joins
- Jonah and the mom and baby talked to each other for 5 minutes or so
- Jonah and the other 4 or 5 year old get on same bench but don't talk to each other
- Jonah watches the other two brother and sister play
- Sister helps brother cross between benches, brother splashes sister
- Group of 11 comes out, counselor tells them to go cool off in the fountain, they start yelling and trying to splash each other, only engage for 30 seconds or so
- Brother and sister are climbing on and off benches and it is a little dangerous for the little brother, so after about 5 minutes or so, dad tells Lucy to calm down because Patrick may get hurt, the two start playing tag, Patrick is running and slips but is okay, runs back and slips again and hurts himself more
- Baby joins with football and just watches, mom takes off his shorts so he can get more wet, he goes from bench to bench dipping football in water dropping under bench, he puts football on bench and it rolls away and he laughs, bird lands on bench and he says "bird" and goes closer but it flies to tree and he watches it for a minute, several people smile at him

- 6 tables being used at PCC
- Mom and son come out of Menchies to play in water, baby watches water on southern bench and squats down goes to southwestern bench and puts arm in near water source, walks to southeastern middle bench and then back to southern bench, mom sits down on dry bench and boy wants to be held
- Older African-American man leaves PCC and dips hand in water

Observation #7: 8/11 3:45-4:45pm

- When I arrived, 2 moms standing by Southern wooden bench, 4 kids (3 boys 9, 8, and ¾ and one 6 year old girl) all playing on benches, splashing and jumping, little girl is in swimsuit but the 3 boys are in normal clothes
- The 2 littlest kids stay sitting on bench while boys sit on dry bench and go back and forth
- 2 tables at Kitanda, and 4 tables (including me) at PCC full
- The moms see someone they know leaving PCC and they have a convo
- The three boys go in to PCC, girl in swimsuit stays on wet bench and watches people, tells her mom to come here, she takes picture and they laugh at how her butt of her swimsuit is filling up with water
- Boys come back with cups/bowls and fill it with water and throw it into the air, other mom reprimands them for making the spray too crazy
- Guy sitting at table to my left says to the mom “it’s a great place to come on a hot day” but the mom doesn’t talk back
- Elderly woman with walker walks through and smiles at the kids
- Boys calm down a little and just pour water on themselves and play with cups in different ways
- Mom brings out cup for her little girl, she joins boys
- Eldest boy wants his whole body to get wet and lays down on bench, younger brother helps him by pouring water on remaining dry spots
- Another boy and his mom come, mom gets mad at him and they leave
- Kids start singing “it’s raining, it’s pouring, the old man is snoring” while trying to splash each other
- Asian mom and daughter walk through and little girl 2 or so runs around but doesn’t engage with water
- Now 6 tables at PCC and no tables at Menchies or Kitanda being used, 1 just now being used, both wooden benches being used
- Three girls walk through on their way to Menchies, maybe 8 or 9 and are excited that water is turned on because last time it wasn’t, don’t engage yet
- 2 more girls and 3 moms come to eat pizza, speaking different language

- The cups the 4 kids are playing with begin to get soggy, they rip them up and make mouths like you would with Pringles and start playing with cups in the other open spaces of the plaza and not the water
- One of the girls from two bullet points up in white shirt goes up to bench and splashes water, girl in swimsuit comes up to fill cup with water and they smile at each other
- Both of the two girls finish pizza and they play at a northern bench while other kids play at southern benches
- The two smaller of the four pour water on southern dry bench to make it wet
- The three or four girls that went into Menchies finish their froyo and feel ready to play in benches (earlier they started to but ran away when youngest boy filled cup and a girl said “watch out he’s ready to spray us” and they went back to table
- As the four girls are playing, another mom and daughter come up to benches and all six of them interact together
- Another mom with three kids (2 girls and 1 year old boy) come up to go to Menchies, they see the water and get excited)
- Even though there were less people at Thornton, time seems to be passing more slowly here
- Girl in pink skirt plays in benches, goes back to friends who say “please don’t spray me”
- Girl in tie-dye cups water and they start to spray each other
- One girl holds hands with the other as she crosses to another bench
- Maintenance woman comes out to clean the tables and sweep leaves
- One of the girls eating Menchies watches the ladies sweep
- Dad with baby in stroller stops to let baby splash hand in water while he checks phone
- Other girl finishes her Menchies and climbs on bench while lady finishes sweeping, other girl joins her
- I am the only one at PCC tables and it definitely quieted down
- One girl has swimsuit lies on bench like a mermaid and then lies down all the way on her stomach, other girl doesn’t have swimsuit so doesn’t get as wet

Observation #8: 8/12 12:30-1:30

- 4 tables being used at PCC, 1 at Kitanda, none at Menchies
- 2 people sitting on Northern wooden bench, father and little boy playing catch on Southern wooden bench
- I am sitting at same spot as yesterday, 2nd table on outside at PCC
- 20 or so people walk by in 15 minutes, no interaction
- More people are sitting at the inside tables at PCC, maybe because there is more shade
- At 12:50, 7 tables at PCC, 5 individuals including me and 2 couples/groups of 2, no interaction until 12:52, father and daughter leave PCC and he lets her play in water, waves hands along the benches, asks her to c’mon but she continues playing, dad smiles and watches

- 1 table outside Kitanda has a chocolate lab, 1 table outside Menchies has a mix and a bulldog both couples, another dad talks to father and son that have been playing for 30 minutes and sits at southern wooden bench with black lab
- Another little girl walks up and touches water before following dad inside
- African-American dad with 2 sons come up from garage, boy says “water!” and look at it but still head into PCC
- Another son and father walk through north to south and son looks at water as he’s talking but doesn’t engage
- Mom and daughter eat lunch on southern wooden bench with their dog but then decide to sit at table
- African American dad and 2 sons come back out of PCC but no engagement
- The same father and son that were on southern wooden bench playing when I got here leave at 1:15 after 45 minutes, boy never engaged with the water
- Couple speaking Spanish with 2 young kids sit at table behind me
- Several groups of adults walk by and gaze at benches but no engagement
- When I leave, 8 tables at PCC being used, 5 closer to fountain, 3 in southern corner

Observation #9: 8/12 3:00-4:00

- 3 Indian girls playing in water when I arrived
- 1 girl getting ready to leave on bikes with mom, dad, and grandma went to touch water but parents didn’t want her to get wet
- 7 tables at PCC being used, including me, 2 tables at Kitanda, 2 groups on northern wooden bench, family on southern wooden bench
- Asian couple with corgi lets dog get wet in bench
- Mom with 4 boys walk through to Menchies but no engagement, they walk back through and don’t engage
- Mom and little girl, 1 or 2, she goes to bench and wants to take off shoes but mom tells her it’s okay to keep on, dad joins with a grocery cart and they let her play for a bit, she dips legs in
- Mom and son 7 or 8 walk through to PCC, boy stops at 3 eastern benches and squats near them and pretends to fart
- Dad and 3 daughters come out of Menchies, they all look at water but don’t engage
- 3:30 8 tables being used at PCC, 2 people on southern wooden bench, 1 table at Menchies, 1 table at Kitanda, 4 people at northern wooden bench
- Crow gets on bench and drinks water, family comes out of Menchies, daughter 10-13 years old notices the crow and they laugh about it
- Father/mom with 3 sons stop to talk outside PCC, the youngest boy goes and sits lightly on bench and gets his butt wet or pretends to, is about to go back and do it again but family decides to leave

- Either there is less engagement today or I am getting less enthralled with engagement that occurs, maybe since it is the first day that the smoke has cleared, people have planned activities to go play in water elsewhere rather than running into these water features while running errands, but it is not as warm today so maybe less people want to play in water
- Asian family with 2 girls 4 and 2 year old, come up and dip hands in, dad plays with them, until he realizes 2 year old is all wet
- White mom and 2 year old daughter nearby watch and then girl walks toward benches to play but doesn't engage
- Good # of people ride their bikes here and bike rack is often crowded
- Woman and man with son, mom walks up to it and sticks finger in, dad does too to try and encourage their one year old son to look or touch the water, dad gets boy's hand wet and he makes a face of disgust and parents laugh
- 3:50 4 tables at PCC, none at Kitanda, Menchies or the southern wooden bench, 3 people at northern wooden bench
- 3:55 boy asks his mom if he can run through water, not sure how mom responded, but he ran south to north through benches and then back to his family eating Menchies (they walked through on their way to Menchies but didn't engage)

Observation #10: 8/17 3:45-4:45

- 2 boys around 5 chase each other around benches, 3rd little boy joins, the 3 boys seem to be with their nannies
- 4 girls eating froyo at 2 PCC tables, look 6-8 year old
- Woman with yellow lab sits at dry bench south of wet bench, one of the 3 boys asks to pet it
- 2 of the 4 girls are practicing sign language
- Mom and teenage son sit at table outside Kitanda and talk in sign language
- College age girl sits on southern wooden bench
- Family with dog sits on northern wooden bench
- 2 Menchies tables being used
- Baby crawls toward bench, stands up at bench and puts feet in water, feels top of bench and water flowing down, walks to other benches with mom's help, baby is just learning to walk, maybe around 1 year old, falls every couple steps that she tries to take
- Space is all shaded
- Mom of 4 girls with froyo says they need to get ready to go, one of the girls walks through benches
- 4:05 brother 4, and little sister maybe 2 start to play together on bench, he stands on bench
- Dad with 2 little boys and baby girl, the brother from previous bullet point talks to one of the boys and says "I'm wearing water shoes" and one of the boys (maybe 4 too) says "I have water shoes too"
- Mom and grandma with baby in stroller touch water and watch the boys talk to each other

- ASL teen that was eating at Kitanda gets up to leave and stands on northern most bench
- The 2 brothers finish their soup and go up to bench and touch the water, the younger brother mimics the older brother
- Brother and sister leave
- Asian father and 2 daughters come up to NE bench and play, fill plastic water bottle and pour it out, first dad does it then the girls do it
- Little brother goes back up to bench on his own, gets pants wet
- 3 guys in 20's sit on northern wooden bench then walk through water benches to sit at table near PCC
- Asian dad takes pictures of 2 girls in front of benches
- 4 tables, including me, at PCC being used by 4:15, 1 at Kitanda, 1 at Menchies
- Pregnant Indian mom with baby in stroller, baby reaches out to water as they walk by, cries out when he realizes they don't get to play
- Mom and son sit on northern wooden bench in sunshine with froyo
- The mom and grandma with baby in the stroller come back out of PCC, eat at table near me
- Mom and young son that just came out of Menchies walk through benches but don't engage
- Mom with her parents and 3 kids, 1 12 year old girl, and 2 younger 7 or 8 boys walk through from stairs down to Menchies, one of the boys reaches down to northwest bench and puts hands in water flowing down, the 2 other boys with him don't engage 4:30
- Boy on scooter slowly goes through benches, maybe 8 or 9
- Older boy maybe 13 or 14 runs from near Menchies into PCC, goes up on 2 benches and continues running on the benches, jumps off
- Father and daughter, maybe 7 or 8, walk through, daughter walks though middle of benches, dad says "...like Carkeek..."
- Mother with 2 boys comes into Menchies, as the boys walk by they touch the bench
- Mom with 2 daughters 8 or 9 come out of Menchies, girls hover around benches as they eat froyo but don't engage
- Maintenance woman comes and sweeps up leaves in the water
- 4 tables at PCC, southern and northern wooden bench, 3 tables at Menchies, none at Kitanda

Appendix G: Observation Notes from Thornton Place

Observation #1: 4:00-5:00 Friday 7/28

- Water feature isn't on
- Girl walks up and stands on middle rock
- 3 young teens climb atop, have movie popcorn and sit and chat, boy and 2 girls, boy makes plans with someone on his cellphone
- 9 or 10 year old girl with mom or babysitter climbs on middle and jumps from middle to outer and back to the middle
- Mom and 2 kids are playing on chess board while mom sits on bench
- Chess board is in shade and fountain is in sun so maybe that's why they are playing
- Definitely more of a mix of people here, 2 women in hijabs sit at table, older people, African-Americans, Asians, people with dogs, skateboarder
- Mom and daughter leave son sitting on bench/playing on chess board while they go into Subway
- More single individuals sitting at tables than groups
- Old woman sits at table to bask in the sun, in her 70s and is saying something quietly to herself
- Group of teens come out of bubble tea place and sit at a shaded table
- 4:45 two out of the five outer fountain stones are shaded
- 4:55 four out of the five and the center stone of fountain are shaded
- Two Indian parents with preteens are standing by the chess board
- A middle-aged father and son in his 20s, son walks through the fountain on way to Thai

Observation #2: 8/1 3:15-4:15

- When I first arrived a family with 3 preteen kids, two of the kids stood by two of the outer sprayers, dad joined in on a third one but complained or joked that he got wet
- Two teenage girls with mom ate Five Guys and then dipped their feet in the fountain or in the wetness of the water
- Sitting on the bench closest to the fountain in the shade
- A boy 10-13 years old comes and dips hands in fountain as if to clean them
- Empty from 3:25
- Tables have no one sitting in them, people may walk through the space
- Woman and other guy who came from cinema entrance to Subway walked close to fountain but didn't engage
- Fountain went off for a second and then back on, 2 kids with their mom who had just gotten bubble tea and sat on other side of my bench notice, 5-6 year old boy said let's play and ran up to the fountain edge, let his shoes get wet and let out a little squeal before coming back to

the bench for a few minutes, then goes back and gets hand wet, goes back to mom and says “did you see that?! It was very fun!” mom is checking her phone and just nods, his older sister comes with him for a bit but goes back, then goes to fountain and dips finger in spray, boy is continuously going back and forth, starts to stop one fountain from spraying and plays with it, starts to get closer to middle fountain, now is getting sleeve wet and mom says “don’t get too wet we have to go to the theater”

- Sister comes back to play and they both play with the outer fountains
- Boy’s laughter rings through the mostly empty courtyard
- 2 people sitting at Jewel Box but other tables are empty 3:43
- Boy comes to sit on bench and mom takes a picture of him and shows it to him
- I went up close to the fountain and there are 4-5 lights on the ground so it is lit at nighttime
- Boy asks if he can drink fountain
- Another set of mom and two boys come, two boys are 6 and 8 and play with the water, mom dips feet in for 30 seconds before mom goads them to move along
- Dad, older son, and daughter come, son tries to manipulate water so it sprays little sister, they laugh and run around, daughter runs through and under the sprays
- Group of 4 teenage African-American girls stop to take picture of friend near chess board with directory in background, another girl takes a selfie with the fountain in the background
- Little girl whose family is sitting near the chess board and playing with pieces comes up to fountain, walks in wet ground and says “oh this is so refreshing” maybe 5 years old
- Original boy keeps calling to his sister saying “look at this Fiona!”
- The little girl’s older sister comes up and sticks finger over sprayer
- Original boy ran and slipped/skid a little and fell, mom asked if he was okay, he confirmed then started to run under streams like the older sister/brother pair did a few minutes ago
- One of the teenage girls walks over to the nearest fountain and gets hand wet then reaches up to pat her face/neck to cool down
- It is hot today, 82 degrees
- Family is still playing chess
- Original boy says he’s ready but mom wants him to sit in the sun and dry out for a bit, he and his sister start to play tag and then go to do their own thing
- Two teenage girls with dyed hair sit at table north of fountain before moving on
- Two women, one with toddler in stroller, one with baby being carried walk by but go into Jewel Box, toddler motions towards water and babbles (had pacifier in)
- Original babysitter and mom stayed 30 minutes before the mom took them into Jewel Box so the daughter could use their restroom
- 4:00 teenagers with the dyed hair decided to sit at table in between my bench and Jewel Box
- Girl from the family playing chess, who is older, maybe 11 or 12, has been at fountain for 10 minutes or so playing with different streams, asks mom to look , then her 2 siblings or friends

come (one is a boy and the younger girl in red dress) to play before their parents call them along to make their movie, son leaves first, then older girl, then youngest

- Mom with son, five years old, with crutches comes and sits down in shade on other side of my bench before getting up to play with chess pieces
- Original boy, sister, and mom come back and sit at table southeast of my spot
- Another guy from Jewel Box sits at table in front of my spot with his wife/daughter? And her baby in a stroller with drinks from Jewel Box
- The dad or older man brings baby up to water's edge on the ground, then puts her on top of one of the sprayers, then brings her back to stroller saying "I cooled her off"
- Mom with two or three sons comes from residential entrance area and boys point to the water fountain but don't engage
- Another family walks through without engaging from the residential entrance
- One lady sits at table near Jewel box and checks her phone
- Woman with hijab sits at table north of fountain with coffee drink from JB and checks phone

Observation #3: 8/3 12:30-1:30

- Sitting at NE table north of fountain by Subway, facing south, facing fountain
- 5 tables south of fountain are being used, 4 singles, 1 pair, table west of me, the NW most table has single
- 8 tables total this section, 4 have umbrellas, both tables north of fountain have umbrellas
- 3 elderly women came to Subway
- Several adults have walked by fountain but did not engage
- A few tables are on lunch break
- One of the single tables with a guy is joined by a lady and they have lunch together
- Young mom or babysitter with 2 boys under 10 come to chess board to play
- A mom with 2 daughters in a hurry walk from UW med entrance to Subway, 1 daughter puts hand through water as they walk by
- Another mom with 2 daughters, older though, also on way to subway, older daughter is 12 or so, stops to play in water, younger sister joins before mom goads them to come in to Subway
- Mom with 2 boys and 1 girl come up from movies, immediately drawn to fountain and play in different sprayers and climb on top for a minute or two then go sit on bench near the chess board and watch the babysitter and 2 sons play, then they talk amongst themselves and mom sits on bench near fountain checking phone for a few minutes and glancing over before moving and sitting on bench closer to the chessboard
- Babysitter and 2 sons leave chessboard, the 2 boys and girl play, they are quickly joined by a 3rd mom and 2 sons, mom sits on bench with son and other mom sits on the other side with her kids, the 2 sons talk with the mom before they all get up and leave
- Sign that I've not noticed before says Thornton Place is non-smoking with pictures implying no cigarettes and no e-cigarettes

- The three kids continue playing chess
- Man with lime green polo with Thornton Place logo carries some kind of hose and bottle of plant treatment?
- One of the three kids, the older boy comes and gets himself wet with sprayer then went away and came back and experimented with covering the sprayer and laughed
- Elderly women that came into Subway leave but stop at shaded area in NW corner to get something from purse, another man uses the same shaded area to check his phone
- Construction men walk through
- The 2 boys of the mom with three kids climb on the tree garden
- Older boy comes back to water to cool himself off by putting hand in sprayer and putting water on his face, then he sticks his forehead in to get his hair wet
- 2 guys in their 20s come and stand in between sprayers and chat while getting spritzed for a few minutes before sitting at the NW table
- Grandma and 2 kids that entered Subway earlier go to chessboard and play without engaging with fountain
- Felt safe leaving my purse at the table while I walked a few yards away to take pictures
- Seems like most people in the space stay for 5-20 minutes
- Asian couple with dog comes into Jewel Box to get bubble tea
- 2 elderly women walk through, one dips hand in sprayer
- Fountain doesn't have any signs or placards
- Saw two more elderly couples walk through
- The second babysitter with 2 kids came out of Subway and the boy and girl put their hands in 2 different sprayers as the babysitter watched, then they moved on to the chess board but the girl came back and dipped her foot in the water
- Guy who had been using shaded tree area to check phone took some pictures of the plants and then left
- Asian mom and baby walk by, baby points to water but no engagement

Observation #4: 8/4 2:15-3:15

- 2 grown men in late 20's playing chess
- 2 Asian men in 20's at table south of fountain eating Subway
- I am sitting at northwest table of area north of fountain
- All other outdoor tables in the space (not counting JB tables) are empty
- Man in camo pants and sunglasses walks out of Subway, looks at fountain but continues on
- 2 boys from JW come and play in the fountain and run under the streams, maybe 7 or 8
- Mom watches from afar at JB but also checks her phone
- Each boy stands on the rock, calling it a lily pad
- Older boy steps on sprayer ("cannons") and trying to get the bad guy in the middle

- Orange shirt boy says I can spray you with water, blue shirt boy jumps off and they switch to a new game of punching the middle water
- “my booty got wet” one of them says as they sit on sprayers, they are now soaked all over
- Asian teen and her mom/grandma come out of Thai place and smile at the two boys playing
- 2 young teens, boy and girl, come out of JB glued to their phone and don’t look at fountain
- A father and son come out from parking spots and they both have phone, boy maybe 10, doesn’t notice the fountain till he gets closer and glances up from phone
- Dad and daughter come up and sit at table south of fountain, dad and daughter come up together and boys talk to them, daughter is hesitant to get wet but follows dad under the stream, daughter is probably 7 or 8 too, she plays with the sprayer before running under again
- Boy in orange shirt says “watch this” and daughter’s dad says “go for it” even though he is not the boy’s dad
- Orange shirt boy splashes girl with sprayer, she runs away before trying to do it to the boys
- Sprayers get stronger and they all scream in delight
- Boys find a coin on the ground and girl continues to play and cover the sprayers as the boys walk away
- Girl is now comfortable with getting more wet and head butts the water
- A new girl and her older brother with mom come, she is probably 10 and has her swimsuit on, her mom watches her from the northwest table
- Orange shirt boy asks girl to play game with them to see how long they can stand on the hot chess board, they yell out that it’s hot, 2 boys left
- 2 girls start to talk to each other and stand/sit on rocks
- 2 elderly women and an African-American business man walk by, smile at the 2 girls playing
- Girl in the tie-dye pretends to karate chop the water and talks to other girl and they start to play together
- Girl with tie-dye, her dad sits and reads the newspaper
- Girl in swimsuit’s mom checks her phone at the table
- Teen couple walks by and guy puts his hand in the water on their way to JB, the two laugh
- Girls are talking to each other and playing games like covering the sprayer and the older girl tries to cover main fountain
- Mom of girl in swimsuit, her brother comes back from Five Guys and the mom tells the girl it is time to go, girl talks/argues with brother and then goes back to play with tie-dye girl
- Mom says again “we have to go, c’mon”, she goes back to her mom and wraps up in towel and tie-dye girl goes back to her dad and wraps up in her towel and the two of them leave
- At the very end of my hour, a family with 2 girls came out and went to chess board, younger sister dips finger in water and laughs, dad comes and dips his hand in too

Observation #5: 8/5 1:10-2:10

- boy in swimsuit and green hair, maybe 10 or 11 years old, stands in middle of fountain and plays with spray coming toward him
- a mom and dad with 2 boys around 5/6 and 2/3 play near fountain and walk along tree but don't engage
- a mom with 2 sons and grandparents sit at table outside Thai place in shade, 1 son plays with umbrella putting it up and down
- young Asian couple with young daughter lets her explore periphery, girl watches 10 year old play in water, reaches out to touch sprayer but is too short, dad helps her, then she is brave enough to do it on her own
- 2 Asian women sit at northeast table and watch 10 year old before sitting down
- Unclear where the 10 year old's parents are
- 3 people sit by the fire pit
- Boy looks at me several times, maybe trying to figure out why I'm here
- Couple with young boy come up, he walks near water and dad helps him explore while mom takes picture
- Asian girl and boy come up and run around it and smile, go up to it, touch it and run around while mom and dad and grandparents watch
- Boy 10/11 comes up with dad, plays for a second and then catches up with dad
- Mom asks son if he needs help
- Young Asian college kid in work attire with tie takes off tie and smiles at the 2 kids playing
- Dad carrying young daughter walk up and watch then walk away
- Chess pieces are missing
- Asian girl Emma, mom says you are all wet no more but she goes back and touches water several times before stopping to play tag with brother, they run around fountain several times and grandfather takes pictures, parents are trying to figure out Uber, there are two couples and grandparents
- When water goes down, parents all say "aww" or "boo" but then it comes back on and granddad looks at me and says good, we exchange a smile
- Mom says "say bye bye fountain" and "did you have fun at the water?" and she says yeah
- dad with young daughter and 4 year old son stop, son plays in water briefly but girl doesn't before dad encourages them to leave
- mom and dad and daughter 6/7 years old come from movie, dad sits on bench, mom checks pone while girl swipes hand through sprayers and walks around fountain
- older couple in 30s walks by fountain and guy pretends to push girlfriend in water, walks up to fountain and pretends to get hand wet and walks toward girlfriend with hands outstretched jokingly before putting arm around her shoulder
- elderly man chooses to sit at northwest table facing away from fountain and towards Regal Cinemas
- two ladies choose to sit on bench near empty chess board facing cinema

- man in 50s sits at bench facing plaza in front of parking spots to check phone for a few minutes then meets up with another middle aged man and they walk off together
- family w/ 1 boy and girl walk through from cinema, don't engage with fountain but look at it
- Pacific Islander family with 1 preteen girl walk through to Subway, don't engage
- A mom with her friend and her baby in a stroller walk up, mom gets fingers wet and flicks water onto baby to see if she likes it, baby flinches but gets used to it the second time
- Little African-American girl in tutu plays on light post near chess board, the two ladies that were on the bench ask her about her hair then talk to her parent out of sight
- Girl goes up to fountain at same time as little boy and dad, they play for a bit before girl has to leave, boy's dad asks him to bring him his shoes before he can play
- The boy's mom had picked up lunch for all three of them and had been waiting at northeast table, they get together and sit at table south of fountain to eat lunch

Observation #6: 8/10 3:45-4:45

- Two tables at JB being used, 4 tables in plaza being used, 2 women one on phone one looking through journal are alone at separate tables, a couple sits at table near fountain on southern side, woman in scrubs sitting on boyfriend's lap, have just finished Subway, last of the 4 tables is 2 older women
- None of the 2 tables north of the fountain are being used, no one using fountain or chess board, which has the pieces back
- I am sitting at wooden bench to the west of fountain
- Couple leaves
- Guy by himself sits in sunny table and eats Five Guys
- Father and daughter come to chess board, daughter rearranges pieces and dad is on phone facing movies
- 2 guys come out of Thai place, one gets on skateboard and skates near fountain but doesn't engage
- White guy walks through, pauses to look at fountain but doesn't engage
- Kid doesn't come by until 4pm, she is the first person to engage with fountain
- Person with Five Guys watches
- Girl is maybe 5 or 6, tries to drink it, mom says no and stops checking her phone to help pick her up and stand on sprayer, girl has to go potty so they leave
- Now only 1 of plaza tables and 1 of JB tables being used but then another girl comes to a plaza table
- Girl playing chess with friend have been there for 20 minutes or so
- In the first 30 minutes, only the one 5/6 year old girl engaged with fountain
- I estimate 15-20 people have walked by without engagement
- Man in 20s/30s uses directory to figure out where he wants to eat, walks around a bit before going into Subway, was texting and walked by fountain but no engagement

- Noticed that the benches are not designed to deter laying down
- Mom or nanny with 3 kids come and sit on bench, there are 4 total kids and 4 Eastern European/Russian teens/young adults
- 2 oldest kids stick hand in fountain and laugh, girl is 8 and gets soaked
- Woman in hijab sits at table northwest of fountain
- Elderly couple walks by and smiles at the kids, the kids run back and forth between fountains and parents, brother fell and hurt his butt
- Woman leaves Thai place, maybe in her 20s and smiles at kids and tells their moms they are very cute and asks if she can look at babies
- Baby falls again and cries, mom rushes to him and he stops crying after mom gives him pacifier but he looks a little old for a pacifier
- Boy is having a good time and is laughing by himself
- Daughter is playing with one of the babies and sitting in between 2 of the ladies
- There are actually five kids, 3 young babies and the two kids that played in the fountain
- one of the ladies is taking pictures of the other ladies with the baby
- 2 girls are still playing chess, has been for 45 minutes or so
- The 2 older kids played in fountain for maybe 5 minutes and now boy is putting hand in fountain and covering sprayer, sister is squeezing out clothes to dry
- Woman in hijab's granddaughter comes by and they leave, and is maybe 7 or 8, doesn't engage
- Boy goes back to fountain and tries to get moms to watch

Observation #7: 8/11 2:30-3:30pm

- Dad teaching their 7/8 year old son chess, mom takes picture
- One kid when I walked up was dipping his head into fountain, then he crossed street and he and his friend were playing in Regal Cinema space
- Indian family with 4 kids, 1 in stroller, 2 sisters, mom and grandma
- The two sisters came up to play in sprayer before mom and some of the kids went into JB while grandma stayed outside with baby
- A couple with a dog and 2 elderly ladies walk through by fountain and another couple in 50's but don't engage
- 2 Indian sisters and their brother and mom come back with bubble tea and go to chess board and mom takes picture of them and says "okay now you can go play" and older sister and brother play with chess pieces while litter sister goes with mom to sit with grandma
- 3 elderly people walk by/through chess board and smile at the kids
- Several more people walk through without engaging
- Little sister goes back to fountain and stands near sprayer and puts hand in, but is directly opposite me (I am sitting at NW table)
- Elderly woman walks through to Subway with walker and stops to dip hand in water

- Another elderly woman walks through, smiles at fountain, children, and me, then sits at northeast table
- The three siblings play in water, notice me taking pictures
- Mom brings baby over and sprinkles water, older sister and brother do the same and go back and forth between fountain and baby, bring little sister over
- They get more adventurous and get more wet
- Kids went to their mom and then went back to playing chess, maybe I made them uncomfortable to keep playing in fountain or maybe their mom just told them to not get more wet
- Little girl goes back to water, gets hand wet and puts wet hand on top of pieces to cool them off, does this four or five times
- Grandma comes up and talks to them as they play with chess pieces
- Family with 2 teenage boys and French bulldog come up to fountain, they encourage dog to get wet but it doesn't, youngest teenage boy dips head in and gets hair wet
- Indian/middle-eastern man in 20s comes up and dips hand in
- Little sister lays on bench and watches brother and sister before joining
- Mom brings baby back over to fountain and helps baby put hand in the water
- Older siblings get their hair/head wet, mom jokes "I'm not letting you back in the car"

Observation #8: 8/12 1:45-2:45

- 4 tables being used south of fountain, including me, 1 guy reading a book, 1 lady with husband, group of 3 women
- 2 people sitting on benches
- 2 tables outside JB being used
- Chess pieces are gone
- North of fountain, someone has moved tables and chairs from northwest spot to northeast table
- Dad and his 2 little girls come up, he sticks finger in, girls imitate him and he helps younger one by lifting her up
- Fountain is on west side of brick circle and in the bricks, they slope up around perimeter of fountain
- Family with 7 year old girl and 6 year old boy come up, mom goes close to water in middle, son and girl watch, she turns and spritzes them with water, they do it back to her, all the while dad is taking pictures, boy and girl run around and play with different sprayers
- Boy slips and falls as he is running around, mom and dad comfort him and check him out, they point out the curve in the bricks and then the boy and girl go play on empty chess board and try to jump from black to black or white to white and chase each other
- 4 college age girls and 1 guy sit and chat on long wooden bench
- Windy and sunny today

- Little girl goes back to fountain several times, boy doesn't join her 1st time but joins 2nd time, girl gets hands wet and makes handprints on dry bricks
- The fountain is spraying harder and they get a little more wet
- Parents sit on bench behind chess board and check phones and chat with kids when they come back
- Boy pretends to punch water
- Man in 30's sits down on wooden bench near me, doesn't check phone, just sits and watches the kids like me
- Mom and dad get up and have kids pose to take a picture
- Asian mom and dad and young daughter, maybe 2, play musical chairs at a table, then she runs over to chess board and directory
- Mom next to me talks on phone in different language
- Hispanic family walks through to Subway from the south, have young baby with them and a set of grandparents, they stop and look at fountain from afar before walking into Subway
- 2 different girls sit on bench near chess board and check phone 2:30, both were waiting for a friend/boyfriend
- 2:35 I am the only one at plaza tables, 3 tables at JB being used, guy that was reading earlier at a table switched to southern wooden bench, elderly couple sits at norther wooden bench near me, 3 teens sit at bench near chess

Observation #9: 8/17 2:30-3:30

- Little boy maybe 6 or 7 and his mom playing chess, mom is teaching boy
- I am sitting at NW table of plaza, N of fountain
- 2 plaza tables being used
- No interaction until 2:45, Asian couple comes up and girl dips hand in
- Elderly woman holding dog come and sits in shade on wooden bench for a min, then gets up and watches son and mom play chess, smiles at them as she walks past
- Teen boy comes and sits in wooden bench in shade for a sec
- People leaving/entering Subway and Thai place (several groups over the span of the first 20 min walk close to fountain but don't directly engage, maybe get a little wet through splashes)
- Mom and son stop playing chess at 2:50 and walk through apartment entrance
- A few minutes after, a grandpa and preteen grandson come up to chess board, didn't engage with fountain as they walked by, boy starts to put chess pieces back in starting position as grandpa watches
- Grandpa walks with a slight limp, boy asks if he wants him to move pieces for him
- Another old man comes up to chess board and picks up a piece, makes comment, grandpa replies and man walks on
- Young woman sits in same spot that elderly woman and teen boy sat in shade on wooden bench

- Asian father (maybe grandpa) and baby, he helps her walk and they sit in shade on other side of bench, baby girl pulls him toward fountain and he helps her walk over and touch water, go back to bench for a little then go back to fountain
- Grandfather walks her south, table with 2 women say “aww” or something similar and they have a brief exchange with grandfather and baby
- grandson playing chess with grandpa asks me if he can borrow a chair from my table, I say yes and he brings it over so his grandpa can sit down
- grandma and father and mother of grandson join them

Observation #10: 8/18 12:15-1:15

- I am at northwestern table, 5 tables south of plaza being used
- 3 guys in 20s walk through to Thai place, one guy walks close to fountain out of necessity, because the table southeast of fountain is somewhat close, he doesn't engage
- 12:30 all tables being used, mostly people eating lunch
- 12:45 no engagement in first half hour
- 12:53 now only five tables including mine being used
- 1:10 African-American or middle-eastern family with 4 year old boy comes up to fountain and dips hand in water, explores different sprayers, dad takes pictures before they head inside
- Asian guy in 20's dips hand in as he talks on phone, goes into Subway