

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

Current strengths (likes) of Fountain District Area

Connectivity
Walkable

Attractive on side streets

Mix of businesses can be built on

Broadway on Edge
Potential for walking - enhance?

Potential for attracting uses just off Meridian
Like the concept of living above commercial uses - attractive building
Alleys advantageous to residents above commercial
More possibilities for shared parking - underutilized space (false scarcity)

Unique architecture

Walkability

Variety of businesses

Sense of Community (small town feel)

Residential / Business mix
The "Fountain"

Weaknesses

Current weaknesses (dislikes) of Fountain District Area

Not enough Parking
Lots of through traffic on Meridian

Northwest Avenue has become busier, noisier

Parking problems - students
Don't have trouble crossing Meridian - even on a bicycle -- but have a huge problem crossing or making lefts onto it by car.
Thefts

Not pedestrian friendly (need more crosswalks)

Poor visibility at intersections

Disparate architecture

Unused parking

Overhead high power lines

Pedestrian safety - crosswalks lacking
Parking removed on Broadway to Cornwall (removed W. side)

Undeveloped property (Fountain Drug site)

Lost charm - some buildings are unattractive
Missing sidewalks / drainage

Other (wants & desires)

More inviting environment on Meridian with trees, bulb outs
Street car back to Fountain District?
Better parking would encourage shoppers strolling - utilize alley's better

If Meridian is fully developed (street level, businesses, upper story housing) parking would be a big problem

Drugstore
Breakfast/Lunch Café

More Shady Trees (on busy streets)

Pedestrian connection to waterfront

Historical markers/ plaques

Bakery
Consider the impact of the increased presence of the homeless population with the development of the Old Town Area
Haggen - more pedestrian oriented on Meridian and Illinois
Haggen - move (rebuild store) closer to Meridian w/ housing above
Need variety of businesses - Hardware/gym/fitness/bakery/coffee shop/drugstore/bookstore/outdoor seating

Idea of design is of concern
Too tall of buildings will block residential

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

Walkability / distances

Good density - lots of housing
 Established character in residential areas
 Good amenities
 Music District
 Bus / transit connection
 Proximity to parks

Walkability

*Bus Service
 *Access to Parks

*Restaurants
 Local feel
 Business visibility & access
 On-street parking

Building aesthetics

Commercial mix
 Houses converted to business

Mix : New & old buildings
 ReStore
 Local family business
 Mix of housing - old & new / SF & MF
 Walkable
 Diverse
 Sense of Community
 Parks
 Bus line
 History

Weaknesses

Businesses located in converted residences

Empty buildings
 Removal of on-site parking on Broadway
 Meridian Traffic
 Lack of residential parking
 Not pedestrian / bicycle friendly
 Lack of mixed use buildings

Lack of density on corridor

Lack of fountain in "Fountain District"
 Arterials aren't pedestrian friendly

More bike friendly
 More consistent / uniform architecture
 Lighting too tall, too big scale
 Obtrusive power lines

Challenging pedestrian crossing

No sidewalks on Illinois
 Sidewalks too narrow
 Parking on Kulshan - Terrible - Peabody too many cars
 Lack of street trees
 Cell tower threat on Meridian
 Meridian car oriented
 Haggen parking lot right off Meridian
 Need more cross walks/pedestrian
 Over ground utility poles
 Current density / Existing infrastructure
 H₂O - Capacity
 Poor alley / road maintenance

Other (wants & desires)

Need money to make changes
 Current multi family is used as single family - concern multi will take over
 Future parking requirements
 Make some streets pedestrian only
 What does Historic boundary represent?
 Parking underneath buildings
 Light rail - Bring the trolley back
 Eventually high density commercial could be extended out Meridian the truck route
 Prefer residential on main roads and really good building
 Promote business for good street energy
 Divert heavy traffic @ I-5 and Illinois St. so Meridian into town is slowed down
 Infrastructure shapes good development
 On street parking stay? Vs parking under uses
 Don't want more multi story buildings
 Don't want the Urban Village to change the single family neighborhoods surrounding it. The village should enhance not harm
 Add sidewalks leading to the village - Vallette for example
 Keep Single Family

 10 minute promenade
 1/2 mile to public transportation
 Elm - wide walkways, shops etc

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

Mix owners / renters
Economically diverse
Schools
Locally owned businesses
Mixed Uses
Maintain existing commercial corridors
Like boundaries as proposed

Commercial / residential above
See the horizon from house
Light into yard
Eclectic Nature of Bldgs
Historic
Services here
Walkable & walkable distance
Nearby parks
Like the three different neighborhoods

Street Grid
Income diversity
Good schools
Quiet on weekends and evenings
Safe usually
Business mix
Greenspace mix
Character of buildings

Walkability
Mix of cottage houses / character of homes in neighborhoods
Current Communication
Sense of community
No grid lock traffic - ease of access
Connectability

Weaknesses

Poor aesthetic / when walking & pedestrian character
Character of Merit Engineering
Noise
No cohesive look, theme, feel
Some dead spots, empty spaces
No central social gathering place
Main arterial - cars down middle

Lots of single family , but no quality multi family
Very narrow commercial zone
Not enough parking for businesses
Lack of affordable housing
No marked crosswalks
Speed of cars way too fast
Major arterial divides the district
No crosswalks
No bike lanes
Need to maintain traffic for businesses - easy parking - easy pedestrian safety
Traffic control on collectors
Traffic
Crosswalks
Property Maintenance
Stormwater system
Need curbs and gutters
Not enough crosswalks
Needs landscaping / more pedestrian and bike pleasant

Focus of cars
Parking
No bike lanes
Connectivity to downtown
More traffic

Other (wants & desires)

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

No big parking lots
Location within Bellingham
Current height restrictions
Asian market
Wide streets

Diversity of existing businesses
Sense of community, identity

Walkable neighborhood -sidewalks flat- Bus route neighborhood
Attractive place to live, move to
Mix of architectural styles
Historic District - connect to past
Kulshan Street - bike thoroughfare
Walkability

Variety of businesses
Parks - easy access
Access to downtown via pedestrian (Old Town) trail
Pride in ownership
Diversity of businesses
Central to city - easy access
Fountain triangle
Urban village already started
Mixed use present
Kinds of housing
Historical / commercial historical
Parks
Central location
Non Meridian - hasn't changed much
Pedestrian friendly
Close to schools
Love the grid

Weaknesses

Not enough parking
Lack of window shopping
Lack of sidewalks
Powerlines
Meridian traffic

Not bike / pedestrian friendly (cross walks, visibility)
Loss of parking - Broadway changes

Overhead power lines
Traffic
Parking
Sidewalks
Sensitive to Kulshan Street buffers
Meridian not pedestrian friendly - crosswalks
Limited on street parking
Do not take away on street parking - No Broadway Ave.
Narrow sidewalks
High density of people, concern about water, sewage, and garbage

Other (wants & desires)

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

Variety of businesses
Like seeing chickens in peoples yards
Shorter distance to goods and services
Investment in area
Community
Support of businesses
Encourage small/ local business
Family investment - business/ residents
Building character / scale
Walkability
Parks / trees
Single family - different but blend
Already a village
Closest thing Bellingham has to China Town
Asian Market
Vet
Music store
Walking
Restaurants
Business visibility & access
Walkabilty
Density
Store - Business frontage on Meridian
Character of single family homes
Location
Haggen - good solid retailer, walkable, anchor
Linear commercial along arterial, space to develop
and grow

walkability within area/ library / neighborhoods

Mapped boundary is ripe for new development
Bus routes- lots of options
Watering hole an asset
Already known as the "Fountain District"

Weaknesses

Other (wants & desires)

Fountain District Urban Village - Strengths and Weaknesses

Strengths

Strength of the surrounding neighborhoods
"Chinatown" - Ethnic Center
Early and ongoing communication about the
Urban Village

Weaknesses

Other (wants & desires)