Julia Lee’s Park

Julia Lee's Park was established on the southwest corner of East Harrison and Martin Luther King Jr. Way in 1993. It is a memorial to native Seattleite Julia Lee Roderick Knudsen, built on private property by her husband C. Calvert Knudsen. The park holds an Italianate garden with handsome wooden benches and has become a green and peaceful meeting place.

Plum Creek Park

Plum Tree Park on 26th Avenue between East Howell and East Olive streets was established in the early 1980s with Forward Thrust money.

Homer Harris Park

This park in the heart of the Central Area features unique artwork, a “Unity Plaza" gathering place, picnic tables and lawn areas. Barbecue on the grill or bring a picnic lunch, and enjoy the views to Lake Washington and the Cascade Mountains. The park will also include a large elephant sculpture in the children's play area.

The park is on a tract of land once owned by William Grose, a black pioneer, who bought the tract from Henry Yesler in 1882 for $1,000 in gold.

Dr. Homer Harris (1916-2007), for whom the park is named, was one of Seattle's most beloved and respected athletes and physicians. Artwork at the park notes highlights and achievements in the life of Dr. Harris.

William Grose Park

William Grose Park, at 30th Avenue between Denny Way and Howell Street, is an 18,700-foot mini-park named for African American pioneer William Grose (1835-1898). Son of a free black restaurant operator in Washington , D.C, he spent time in the U. S. Navy, then went to California with the gold rush, and finally arrived in Seattle in 1861. Mr. Grose ran a famous restaurant and hotel in downtown Seattle called "Our House." He is credited with establishing the Central Area core -- and first Seattle African American neighborhood -- when he bought a "ranch" bounded by 24th and 27th avenues and Howell and Olive streets. This land was purchased from Henry Yesler in 1882.

Harrison Greenbelt

Perhaps the proudest green space in Madison Valley is the Harrison Ridge Greenbelt on 32nd Avenue between Denny Way and Harrison Street. The result of years of discussions with city and park officials, private owners, and several lawsuits, the Greenbelt was and is a constant source of water drainage on 32nd Avenue. It is also home to a wide array of trees, bushes, and birds. When it came into the community's hands, work parties were

organized and tree planting (of conifers) and a paid work project for teens were undertaken. A plaque on the 32nd Avenue retaining wall reads: "Built by WPA, 1939-1940

Madison Valley Stormwater Park

The Madison Valley Stormwater Project & the Madison Valley Drainage Basin, is a response to flooding in Madison Valley during times of heavy rainfall. Tragically, a Madison Valley woman, Kate Fleming, died when a flash flood trapped her inside her basement studio in December 2006.

The Madison Valley drainage basin was shaped by a glacier and eroded by floods. The valley has steep hillsides and was once drained by a stream that emptied into Union Bay via what is now the University of Washington Arboretum. In the late 1860's, a wagon road was cut through from downtown to Madison Park along the current route of E. Madison. In 1880's, a cable railway with a trestle across the valley was constructed to provide better access to Madison Park and environs. In the early 1900's, the trestle was replaced with fill, which blocked the natural watercourse and a combined sewer trunk pipe was built to carry sewage and stormwater under the fill northward.