



Outside Citywide

Public Space Assets, Plans and Programs
October 2018

Foreword

Outside Citywide is an interdepartmental initiative that aims to create a more integrated, equitable, and complete public space network that supports communities to thrive in place.

The idea for Outside Citywide emerged from Seattle 2035, a three-year process (2014-2016) to complete a major update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. It included extensive internal collaboration and public involvement, environmental and equity analyses, and much discussion and deliberation. Every citywide policy in the plan was reviewed and assessed. Language was made simpler and more concise. Duplicative policies were trimmed, and new policies were added. Ultimately, City Council adopted an updated plan in November 2016.

One area of focus for the update was parks and open space. Previous comprehensive plans bundled policies, inventories and other information about parks and open space into the Capitol Facilities Element. While this approach reflected public spaces managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation, and provided little guiding policy for other kinds of public space. In recent years the City has expanded public spaces through other City assets, such as rights-of-way, substations, and transfer stations. The City is also forming new partnerships with other public agencies, non-profits and community-based organizations to enhance, program, maintain and improve public spaces.

In response to these trends, Seattle 2035 created a new element in the Comprehensive Plan, Parks and Open Space, to recognize this growing, broader system of public space. We expect this element will evolve in coming years as the City develops new strategies to improve livability and expand public space in our fast-growing city.

This report supports Outside Citywide and other work to expand public space in multiple ways:

- inventories Seattle's public space assets and programs;
- highlights case studies of innovative public space;
- describes the historical context of public space planning in Seattle;
- informs City policymakers in creating policies and actions that affect public space;
- offers a resource to external partners that create, program or manage public space; and
- provides a foundation for future discussions about public space, including the 2023 major update of the comprehensive plan.

For further information about this report, Outside Citywide, or the Seattle 2035 Comprehensive Plan, contact:

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Introduction

WHAT IS PUBLIC SPACE?

In 1884 a five-acre cemetery was repurposed to become the city's first public park, Denny Park. This was the start of Seattle's public space system. Over the next 130+ years the City acquired some 6,414 acres of land for the 485 parks we enjoy today. These parks are the largest piece and the backbone of Seattle's public space system.

However, Seattle's system of outdoor spaces includes more than city parkland. In this report, we define public space as any outdoor space that is publicly-owned or publicly accessible. This includes many different types of space, ranging from small urban spaces just big enough for a few benches, to large natural areas with miles of trails located at the edge of the city. Public space can include spaces with different degrees of accessibility, such as a city-owned park open 365 day a year, or play street that is closed for play on select summer days

Public space is a vital feature of a livable city. Whether a large regional park with forests, gardens, and sports fields, or a small urban plaza full of lunching downtown workers, public spaces make city life better. People seek different experiences in public spaces. Some look for vibrant, social, playful places to spend time with family and friends. Others crave physical challenges of team or individual sports. Many just want to relax, take a leisurely walk, find a quiet place to connect with nature or escape urban life. Public space is the common ground where people from different neighborhoods, races and cultures meet and share experiences that create connections, casual or planned, and help build community. Though public spaces differ in type, design, amenities, size, and mix of benefits, each enhances the distinctiveness, community, culture and identity of our neighborhoods and our city. Seattle offers a broad variety of outdoor public spaces to meet those diverse needs.

PUBLIC SPACE FOR A GROWING CITY

Seattle, one of the fastest growing cities in the US, is admired for its spectacular natural setting, leading environmental practices, progressive politics, diverse communities, and walkable neighborhoods. This enticing blend has led to an unprecedented boom in jobs and population. Seattle, a fast growing city, is the center of a region with a strong commitment to protecting farms, forests and other natural resources. The smartest way for Seattle to grow is to build densely near transit.

Over the next 20 years, Seattle is expected to add another 120,000 people and 115,000 jobs. As Seattle grows, more and better public space is needed to serve our growing population, as well as address environmental and social challenges. A cleaner Puget Sound requires more green infrastructure to soak up stormwater. A resilient city needs buffers to withstand more storms, flooding and sea level rise. An equitable city requires greenspace and tree canopy to improve conditions in underserved areas burdened by pollution, flooding and poor health.

Historic Context



1864 David and Louisa Denny provide 5 acres of land for the establishment of a public cemetery Park.

1884 Twenty years later, the land was rededicated as Denny Park, Seattle's first public park.

1903 City hires Olmsted Brothers to create a comprehensive park and boulevard plan inspired by the City Beautiful Movement.

1911 City purchases Bailey Peninsula to become Seward Park.

1917 Ballard Locks and Park open.

1937 Thirty-seven Olmsted designed parks, playgrounds, and boulevards are completed.

1968 Forward Thrust levy approved. Included \$65 million for acquisition and development of new parks, community centers, recreation programs, environmental education, etc.

1972 U.S. Army transfers 391 acres of Fort Lawton surplus land to the City which becomes the city's largest park, Discovery Park.

1975 City acquires Magnuson Park from US Navy, Freeway Park and Gasworks Park open.

1978 First segment of the Burke Gilman trail opens.

1996 City designates shoreline street ends be preserved for public uses and access.

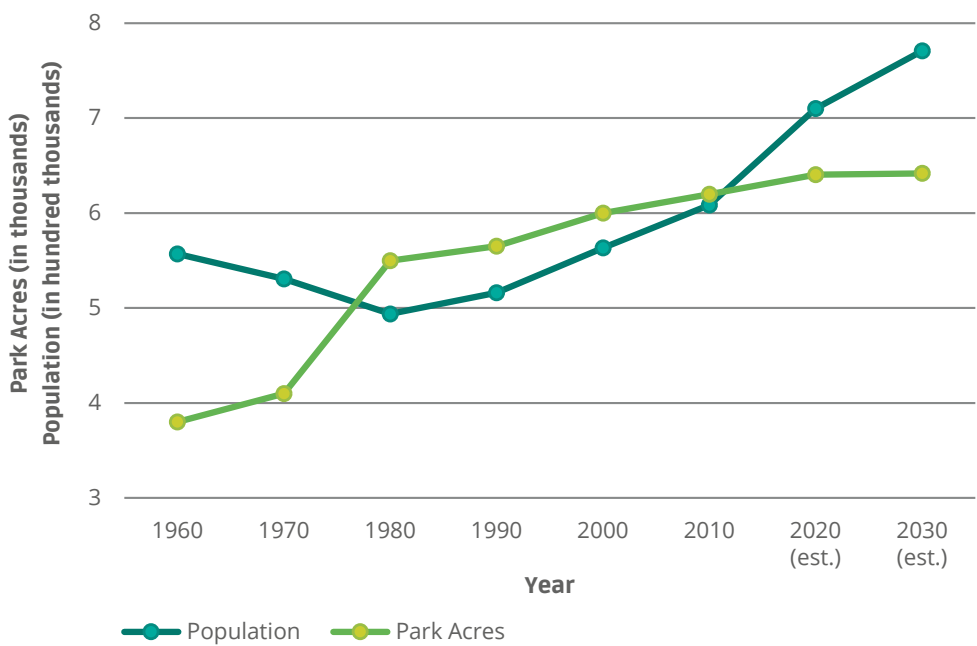
2007 Olympic Sculpture Park opens to public.

2013 SDOT launches parklet and play street programs.



Acquiring land for parks and public space in growing Seattle is challenging and expensive. Sprawling cities can set aside land for parks as they grow and expand into undeveloped greenfields. But a mature, built-out city like Seattle competes for small infill and redevelopment sites with private and non-profit development. While other dense cities have boosted the amount of open space with repurposed idled brownfields, retired landfills or restored wetlands, Seattle lacks similar big opportunity sites. New land acquisitions in coming years will be modest and expensive. A recent study found that between 2013 to 2015 the price of land in Seattle ranged from \$137 to \$500 per square foot. Land for a modest 5-acre neighborhood park could cost from \$30 million to \$1 billion just for one park!

PARK SYSTEM AND POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 1960



In the coming years Seattle will face significant challenges that will impact our public space system. This will require the City to think about land and public space differently than in the past. These challenges include:

Racial Equity

How can the City more equitably distribute the benefits of public space and relieve the burdens of environmental impacts?

Past City policies and investment decisions have created and perpetuated significant racial disparities in environmental quality, health outcomes, and vulnerability to climate impacts. Future investments in public space must center the leadership, knowledge, values and needs of Indigenous Peoples, people of color, immigrants, and refugees in decision-making processes to begin to address current disparities and to build a more just future.

Climate Change

How can public space help Seattle become a more resilient city able to withstand the effects of climate change?

Extreme heat events, flooding, and air pollution are all expected to worsen in coming decades. A coordinated public space and green infrastructure network can help manage these challenges, while supporting social cohesion, livability and vitality.

Growth and Density

How can the City shape future growth to provide housing, jobs and livable communities?

Seattle can't keep up with growth through acquisition of parkland alone. We must expand thinking about what serves as public space, and how we use it. We need new strategies to provide lively, multi-functional spaces in dense urban neighborhoods.

PUBLIC LAND IN SEATTLE

26% of Seattle is
right of way.

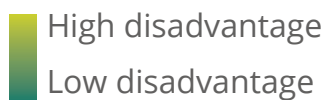
10% is part of Seattle
Parks and Recreation.

2% is other types of
parks and public space.

In total, 38% of the city
is publicly-owned or
publicly-accessible.



EQUITY INDEX



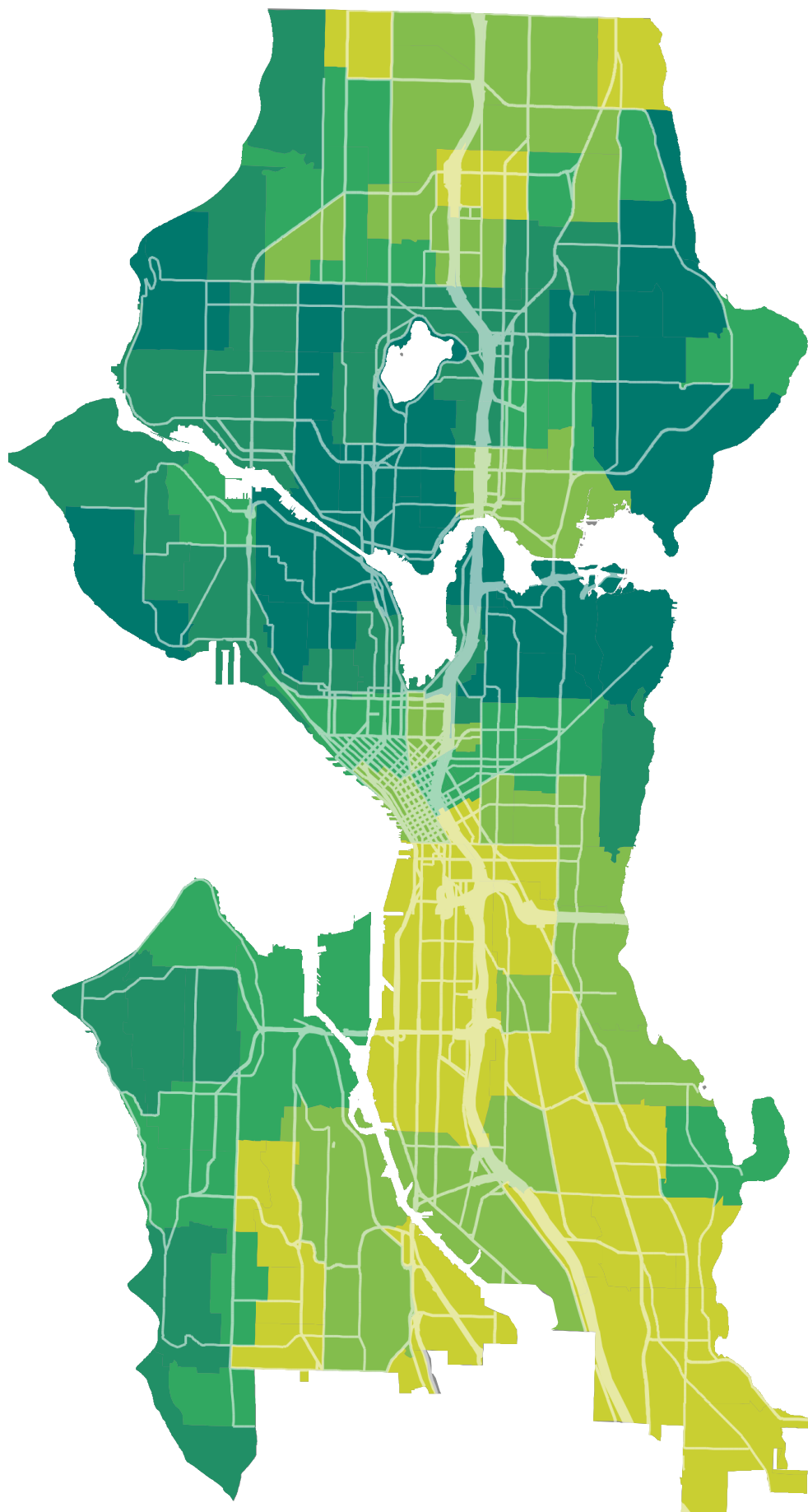
33.7% of Seattlites are people of color.

17.3% of Seattlites are foreign born.

56% of Seattlites have a bachelor's degree or higher.

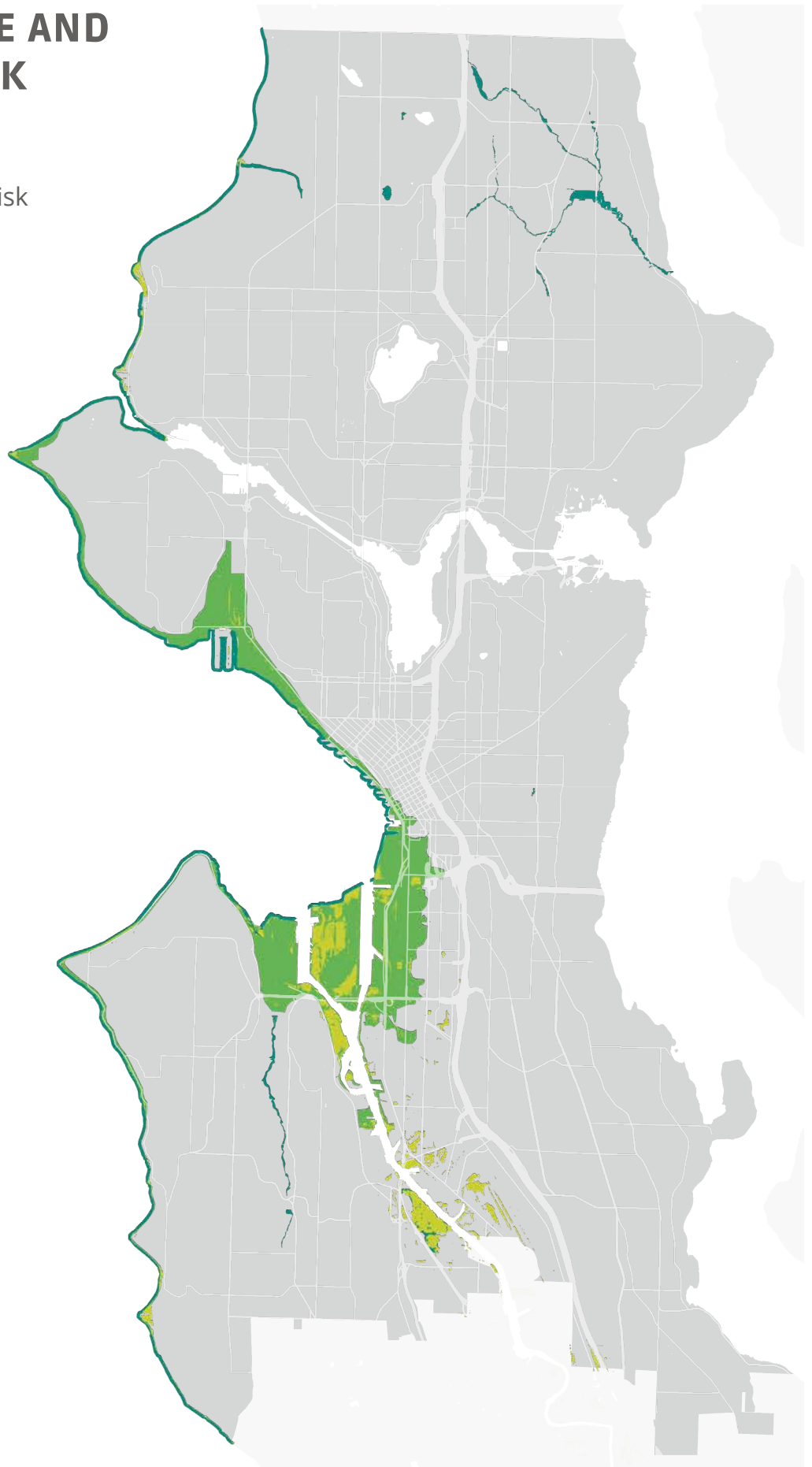
15% of Seattlites live in poverty, and the household median income is \$67,100.

For more information about the Equity Index, refer to OPCD's Equity Indicators and Equity Monitoring work.
www.seattle.gov/opcd



SEA LEVEL RISE AND FLOODING RISK

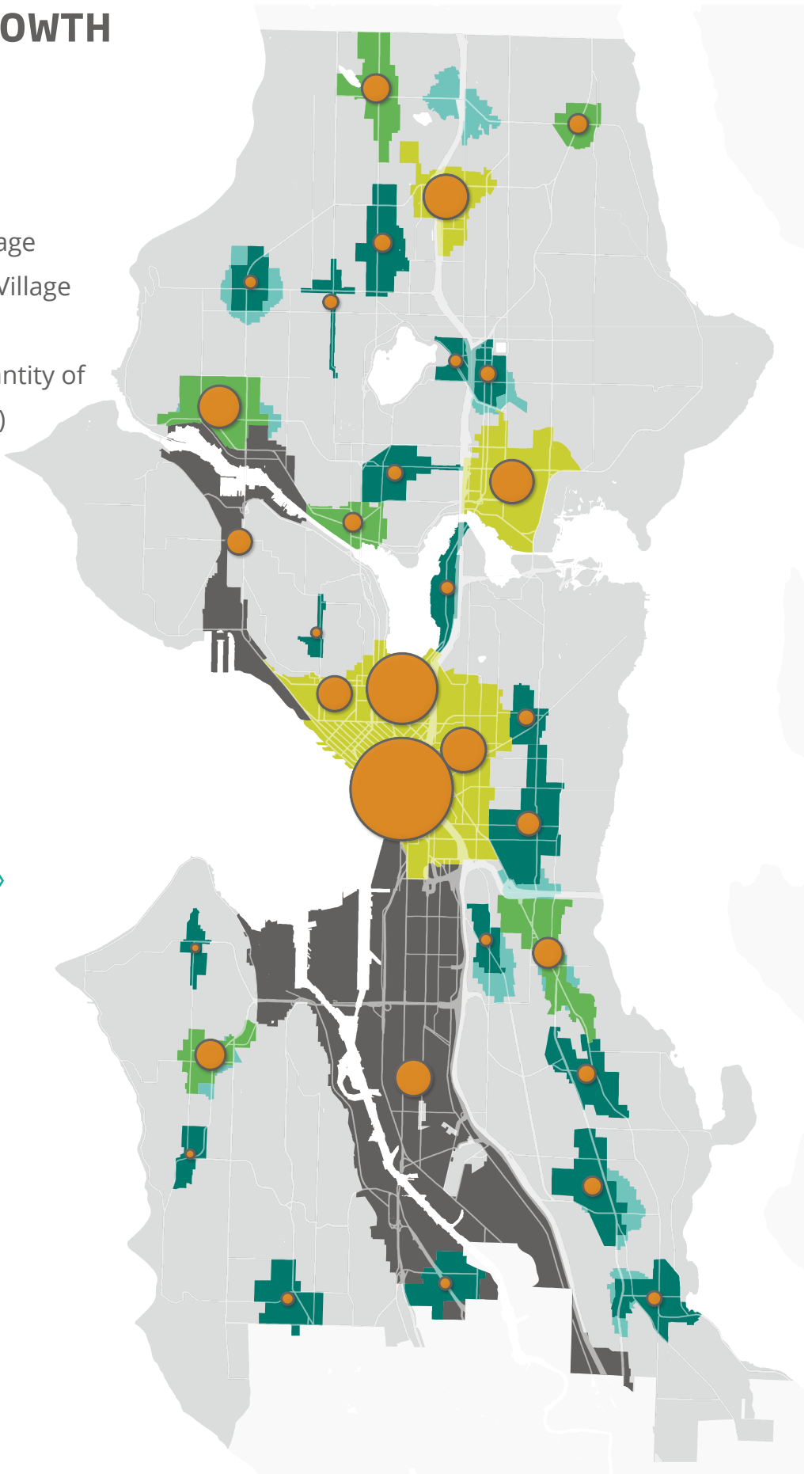
- 5-foot sea level rise
- Tsunami inundation risk
- Flood prone areas



ESTIMATED GROWTH 2015-2035

- Urban Center
- Hub Urban Village
- Residential Urban Village
- Potential New Urban Village areas
- Growth (expected quantity of new jobs and housing)

Seattle's population is expected to grow by 120,000 more people in the next 20 years.



BENEFITS OF PUBLIC SPACE

From the early park planning of the city beautiful movement through today, there is wide recognition that public space offers an array of social, economic, and environmental benefits.

- Public space provides important **social** gathering spaces for communities where they can meet and get to know neighbors, spend time with friends and family. These shared experiences foster a sense of well-being and belonging, and help overcome fears and feelings of isolation.
- Public space delivers **health** benefits in several ways - participation in active recreation, or enjoying the passive calming and restorative effects of green and nature. Vegetation in public spaces helps clean the air, and lessen the effects of extreme heat events.
- Public space offers direct and indirect **economic** benefits. Attractive, well-maintained public space and tree-lined streets can increase property values. Public spaces are often tourist destinations, or home to important cultural programs and events. Great public spaces are part of a livable city, making a place more attractive to residents and businesses, and contributing to a strong economy.
- Public space produces **environmental** benefits. The trees and vegetation help clean the air, and soak up rainfall so less pollution ends up in our lakes and bays. Public spaces help preserve habitat, and weave nature into the urban environment bringing light and air into our densest neighborhoods.

We even know the monetary value of some benefits. A 2012 [study](#) by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) documented the economic value of various benefits of Seattle's park system. Just the park system alone provided the City with annual revenue of \$19.2 million, a municipal cost savings of \$12.4 million, a resident savings of \$511.6 million, and a collective increase of resident wealth of \$110.8 million. If the additional benefits of other types public spaces were included, these values would increase further. Seven major factors were considered:

- **Property Value:** Increased property tax from the increase in value of residences that are close to parks came to nearly \$15 million. In addition to increased tax revenue, these same factors bolstered the collective wealth of Seattleites— by more than \$80 million in total property value and by more than \$30 million in net income from tourist spending.
- **Tourism:** Sales tax receipts from tourism spending by out-of-towners who came to Seattle primarily because of its parks came to nearly \$4.4 million.
- **Direct Use:** Seattleites' saved more than \$447 million by using the city's public parks, recreation centers, trails, and facilities instead of having to purchase these items in the private marketplace.
- **Health:** Savings in medical costs—from getting physical activity in the parks— came to just over \$64 million.
- **Community Cohesion:** This “know-your-neighbor” social benefit is hard to tabulate exactly, but helps ward off problems that would otherwise cost the city more in police, fire, prison, counseling, and rehabilitation costs. TPL estimated this value at just over \$9.5 million.
- **Clean Water:** The trees and soil of Seattle's parks retain rainfall and thus cut the cost of treating stormwater, a service worth over \$2.3 million.
- **Clean Air:** Park trees and shrubs absorb a variety of air pollutants. This value came to nearly \$530,000.

Learn more about the benefits and value of public space

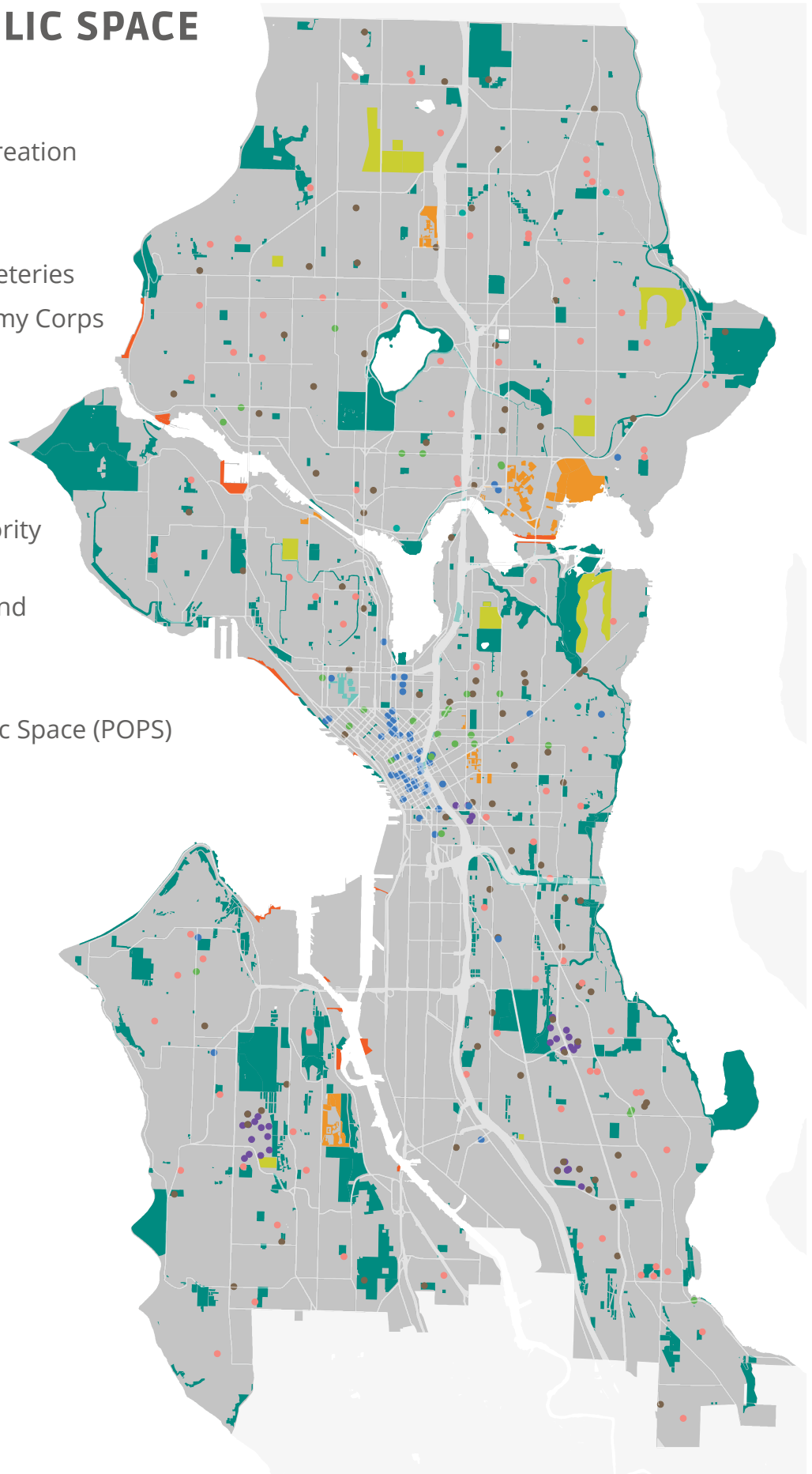
- The Economic Benefits of Seattle's Park and Recreation System | <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-seattle-park-benefits-report.pdf>
- National Parks and Recreation Association | <http://www.nrpa.org/research-papers>
- Trust for Public Land | <https://www.tpl.org/research-library>
- Trust for Public Land The Health Benefits of Parks | <https://www.tpl.org/health-benefits-parks>
- Landscape Architecture Foundation | <https://landscapeperformance.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control Parks, Trails and Health Resources | http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthtopics/parks_resources.htm
- University of Washington Green Cities: Good Health | <http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb>
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign: Landscape and Urban Health Laboratory | <http://lhhl.illinois.edu>
- Living Landscapes | <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/PoliciesPlanning/LivingLandscapesFinalDocument.pdf>

Inventory of Public Space Assets

To envision what future system of public space we desire, we need a clear understanding of what we have. The public park system will continue to be the core and backbone, but this inventory includes a wider range of spaces as well.

SEATTLE'S PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Campus green spaces
- Privately Owned Golf courses and cemeteries
- Port of Seattle and Army Corps of Engineers parks
- Seattle Center
- Public schoolyards
- P-Patches
- Seattle Housing Authority parks
- Parklets, Streeteries and Pavement to Parks
- SPU public space
- Privately Owned Public Space (POPS)



Seattle Parks and Recreation

Parks and open spaces have served Seattle residents since the late 19th century. What started out as a fragmented group of public and private parks located throughout the city, the Seattle parks system managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) now includes a network of regional and neighborhood parks as well as greenways, trails, boulevards, and golf courses. Our parks vary in size and location, including waterfront parks that attract users from all over the region such as Seward Park, Magnuson Park, and Discovery Park, as well as smaller neighborhood parks that are used by neighborhood residents. SPR has adopted a park classification system that recognizes many parks share similar characteristics driven by park use, purpose and size. The current park classification includes:

485 parks
6,414 acres
10% of the city



The Arboretum



Lincoln Park

	Description
Mini Park/ Pocket Park	Very small parks (generally <10,000 sf) that provide some greenery in dense areas. They may include ornamental areas, traffic islands, small boulevards, medians, drainage ways.
Neighborhood Park	Larger parks (0.25 to 9 acres) that serve the immediate neighborhood for multiple uses. They may include play areas small fields, walkways, playgrounds and viewpoints.
Community Park	Larger parks (5 to 60 acres) that serve multiple neighborhoods and include more features and uses than neighborhood parks, such as athletic fields, large open spaces, paths, natural areas and parking.
Downtown Park	Small (0.1 to 5 acres) developed parks located in downtown. They may include iconic urban landscapes or have historic significance and interest to the broad community.
Regional Park	They supplement neighborhood and community parks often serving citywide recreation needs. They are destination parks with water access, views, and special facilities. SPR golf course are classified as regional parks.
Special-Use Parks/ Specialty Gardens	These are generally stand-alone parks that are designed for one particular use such as Woodland Zoo, West Seattle Stadium, Kubota Gardens and Camp Long.
Natural Area Greenbelts/	Park sites established primarily for the wildlife habitat and other natural systems support functions. Some allow low impact use. Areas contain minimal infrastructure and signage.
Boulevards/ Green Streets/ Greenways	Park Boulevards are established by Ordinance SMC 15.02.046 and defined as an extension or expansion of a dedicated street which continues to serve as a right of way in addition to being park land. Many are part of the Olmsted Plan.

Seattle Parks and Recreation Continued

Seattle's 485 public parks provide programming and facilities ranging from athletic fields, community centers, recreation centers, lifeguarded beaches, and pools. The City also owns and operates four golf courses, maintains acres of greenbelts and miles of trails, and boulevards. SPR provides year around and seasonal programming in parks throughout the city that include:

- Adult and youth sports leagues
- Environmental learning centers
- Swimming lessons
- Specialized Programs
- Youth summer camps
- O2 Outdoor Activities
- Family fun nights
- Dancing events
- Outdoor movies, music, and concerts
- Teen life centers and late night programs
- Festivals, arts and craft events

What we have:

485 locations; 6,414 acres (~10 sq mi.) ; 10% of city's land area

Stewards:

- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Public Schools: Joint use agreement for use of parks facilities
- Programs to manage community volunteers such as Green Seattle Partnership
- Non-profit organizations such as Seattle Parks Foundation, Groundswell NW, Downtown Seattle Association, Alliance for Pioneer Square, Friends of Waterfront Seattle, Seattle Conservation Corps, Earth Corps, Rainier Valley Corps, Seattle Americorps Collaborative, Nature Consortium's Urban Forestry Summer Job Training Internship
- 100+ volunteer groups and 39,000+ volunteers donating 426,000+ hours to parks (2012 annual totals)

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Develop lands acquired for parks (landbanked sites)
- Maximize programming opportunity in existing parks facilities
- Partner with other departments, agencies, and community organizations to provide increased amount of accessible open space
- Further encouragement of community volunteers to help maintain neighborhood parks
- Provide spaces that are multi-functional

Note: Lidded reservoirs are included in the inventory of SPR parks.

Public Schoolyards

Seattle Public Schools (SPS) is the largest K-12 school system in Washington state, serving nearly 52,000 students in 97 schools. Seattle Public Schools owns and operates 106 public schools throughout the city. While SPS provides onsite greenspace, playgrounds, playfields, and athletic fields on most of its properties, SPS partners with Seattle Parks and Recreation to provide parks, open space, and playfields within proximity to school property. Parks, greenspace and playfields associated with public schools, but maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation, are included in the SPR parks inventory.

Onsite open space differs based on school type and location. Elementary schools typically include playgrounds, paved recreation area, plazas, classroom gardens, and greenspace. Middle/Jr High and High schools offer a greater amount of programmed spaces and athletic facilities. Public access to outdoor spaces at school sites varies.

The SPS Self Help Program supports community-initiated projects to improve school buildings or grounds, including new playground equipment, murals, school gardens, landscaping, master site plans. Many projects are proposed by a Parent Teacher Student Association for an individual school, and funded by the City's Neighborhood Matching Fund. SPS's Self Help Program has a School Learning Garden Inventory tracking 100 garden sites (food gardens, stormwater, natural habitat, landscaping, greenhouses). As of January 2017 the inventory included 86 active (12 HS, 9 MS, 65 K8/ES) and 14 inactive (3 HS, 2 MS, 9 K8/ES) garden sites.



B.F. Day Elementary School Playground



Hawthorne Elementary School Playground

What we have:

- 100 SPS School Learning Garden Inventory sites
- 82 locations; 222 acres (OPCD GIS analysis)

Stewards:

- Seattle Public Schools
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Parent Student Teacher Association
- Neighborhood Matching Fund
- Community volunteers

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Joint use agreements between Seattle Public Schools, SPR, and communities
- New partnerships to expand green stormwater infrastructure on school sites

More information: <https://www.seattleschools.org/cms/one.aspx?pageId=16181>

P-Patches

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program was established in 1973 by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON). P-Patches consists of community managed open spaces throughout the City of Seattle where residents can use small plots of designated land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs. P-Patches are built on publicly-owned land, ranging in size from 700 sf to 3 acres, and may include elements such as picnic areas, benches, and art as well as educational and sustainability opportunities.

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program expanded after the approval of the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, which earmarked \$2 million to build new gardens. Currently, the Seattle Park District provides funding to maintain and upgrade P-patches. More recently, the P-Patch Community Gardening Program organizers have explored different models of community gardening to include larger tracts for food growth, collective community gardens, and food forests. Produce harvested from the gardens are enjoyed by community members as well as local food banks and feeding programs.

What we have:

88 locations; 32 acres

Stewards:

- DON: Oversees all P-Patch sites throughout the City of Seattle
- SPR: Provides funding and land
- Community volunteers: Provide 30,000+ hours to maintain gardens
- Non-profit organizations: Seattle Tilth, Urban Orchard Project

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Continued collaboration between DON and SPR
- More P-Patches on other public lands such as SPR, SDOT, and SHA
- Establish P-Patches on/near school property and/or use produce for school lunches

More information: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/p-patch-community-gardening/about-the-p-patch-program>

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/p-patch-community-gardening/about-the-p-patch-program/parks-and-green-space-levy>



High Point P-Patch



Haller Lake P-Patch

Seattle Housing Authority Parks

Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) maintains and/or supports public space at their housing developments throughout the city. SHA parks, greenspace, and plazas located within each development vary in size and serve as an important amenity for community members. Parks include community centers, sport facilities, playgrounds, natural areas, gardens, and trails. Greenspace located within SHA's major developments is frequently, but not always accessible to the public. SHA does limit free speech more than City-owned public space to manage illicit behavior. SHA often shares the ownership and/or management of open spaces with the City (SPR), resident or homeowner associations, and other non-profits. Smaller pocket parks are generally managed by the HOA.

- Yesler Terrace Park (SPR, P-Patch)
- High Point (SHA)
- Rainier Vista Park (HOA has 99-year lease; contracts with SHA to manage; Solid Ground manages the farm)
- New Holly Park (SHA, SPR)

What we have:

4 master planned communities; 30 parks and open spaces; ~43 acres (excluding SPR properties)

Stewards:

- Seattle Housing Authority
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Homeowners Association
- Solid Ground (farm at Rainier Vista)
- Sounders Rave Foundation (soccer field at Yessler Terrace)

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Increased public access to SHA open space
- Partnership with other departments, agencies, and organizations to create open space on SHA property
- Consolidation/redevelopment of SHA scattered sites may result in surplus properties that could be acquired for open space



Reservoir Park, High Point



High Point

Parklets and Streateries

Starting as a pilot program in 2013, Parklets convert one or more on-street parking spaces into public space. Parklets activate the street and surrounding neighborhood. Similar to parklets, streateries provide additional gathering space within the right of way (ROW). Streateries are different from parklets in that they provide specific programming opportunities, serving as an extension of a specific restaurant during business hours. Streateries transition into publicly accessible open space during non-business hours.

Parklets and streateries require permitting from SDOT, but are privately designed, installed, and maintained. These small open spaces are typically designed to include vegetation, seating, tables, and gathering space. Parklets and streateries are meant to function within the context of the surrounding neighborhood and therefore designs for each vary throughout the city.

Guidelines for parklets and streateries were formalized in SDOT's Parklet Handbook and Streatery Supplement.

What we have:

23 locations; 13 are existing, 10 are in planning stage, ~2 acres

Stewards:

- SDOT: regulates uses in the right-of way, and issues permits that can be renewed on an annual basis
- Local businesses/applicant: apply for permits; provide funding for fees, design, materials, and construction; design, build, and maintain parklet and/or streatery; Additional permits and fees are required for Streatery

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Reduce fees for creating parklets
- Streamline permit acquisition, planning, and design process
- Greater education of parklet process in underserved communities

More information: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/parklets.htm>



Parklet on the Ave



Molly Moon Parklet

Pavement to Park Program

Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Pavement to Park Program was a cost-effective way to experiment with new public spaces and street improvements. The program was funded from 2015-2018 with a goal of installing twelve new public spaces within this three-year time frame.

What we have:

- 13 Pavement to Park project locations

Stewards:

- SDOT: regulates right-of-way uses; Projects were funded internally and maintained by SDOT.
- Community volunteers: Participated on core groups to develop designs and to help with public engagement. Fostered activation activities in space.

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Consider a process for communities to adopt existing pavement to parks to avoid decommissioning the spaces due to a lack of ongoing funding.
- Foster partnerships with private development, SPR, or other applicable City Departments in transitioning spaces from temporary to permanent open space
- Work with SDOT-funded programs to assume asset management by adapting the space to serve greater mobility needs to avoid decommissioning.

More information: http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/ptp_overview.htm



Denny and Olive Pavement to Park



University, Union and Boylston Pavement to Park

Seattle Center

The Seattle Center opened in 1962 as a part of the Seattle World's Fair. Today, the Seattle Center continues to serve as a civic campus hosting cultural institutions (Pacific Science Center, Northwest Ballet, Seattle Opera, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Children's theatre, Seattle Children's Museum, Museum of Pop Culture, Chihuly Garden and Glass Museum, Space Needle, Key Arena) and events (e.g. Festal Cultural Festivals, movie nights, Seattle International Film Festival, and Seattle PrideFest). Seattle Center also includes a variety of publicly accessible gardens, open spaces, fountains, plazas, a sculpture garden, and even a rooftop P-Patch.

Completed in 2008, The Seattle Center Century 21 Master Plan provides a long-term investment plan for Seattle Center. The master plan includes the following elements addressing open space:

- Reclamation of open space at the "Center of the Center" for a mix of programs and activities;
- Redevelopment of the Fun Forest into Artists at Play, a year-round outdoor activity and play area;
- Reflecting pond and public stage at Mural Amphitheatre;
- Better pedestrian and transportation connections through the Center and to surrounding neighborhoods; and
- Addressing sustainability through the placing of ecological systems in all landscape features, increasing green acreage, and increasing energy conservation measures.

What we have:

~25 acres

Stewards:

- Seattle Center
- Seattle Center Foundation
- Seattle Center Advisory Commission
- P-Patch Program
- Private on-site organizations

Opportunities and Ideas:

- More public programming – outdoor concert series, outdoor opera, theatre performances, etc.
- Provide greater amount of accessible open space

More information <http://www.seattlecenter.com/>



Artists at Play



Seattle Fountain

Campus Green Spaces

College and university campuses are a major contributor to our public space network. The University of Washington holds over 220 acres of public space including Union Bay Natural Area, Rainier Vista and the Quad, Red Square, the Waterfront Activities Center, the sports fields, and other campus green spaces, making it the third largest public space resource in the city after Magnuson and Discovery Park. South Seattle College, North Seattle College, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, and Seattle Central College each make a significant contribution to our public space network as well through campus greens, plazas, and sports fields, with approximately 55, 36, 18, 6, and 2 acres of public space respectively.

What we have:

6 campuses; about 340 acres

Stewards:

- Institutions: maintain campus green spaces

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Partnerships with institutions to activate campus green space with community programs and events.
- Wayfinding signage from sidewalks and other trails to campus trail systems (particularly at North and South Seattle College).
- Green stormwater infrastructure partnerships
- Open up campuses to the surrounding community



Seattle Pacific University Campus



UW Campus

Cemeteries and Golf Courses

Cemeteries and golf courses contain a significant amount of open space within the city—nearly 1,000 acres, approximately 15% of the Seattle's total open space network. The tree canopy and open space of these large, special use spaces provide visual, air quality, and heat island mitigation benefits of green space for those who live nearby.

Generally, cemeteries are open during daylight hours to the public for walking, but may have rules prohibiting dogs, bicycling and other activities. Some cemeteries offer public guided or self-guided tours to highlight the history, monuments or landscapes of the site.

Golf courses are a recreation resource, but require a fee or membership to participate. Public golf courses do not require membership, and have more modest fees than private clubs. Nationally, many public and private golf courses include public walking trails that can be used by non-golfers/non-members. SPR's 2009 Golf Master Plan identified perimeter walking trails at its four courses as one of six priorities. In 2013, Seattle Parks and Recreation opened the city's first golf course public walking trail, the 2.2 mile Jackson Park Golf Course Perimeter Trail. In coming years, SPR will be implementing perimeter trails at other public golf courses.

What we have:

- 19 spaces (958 acres)
- 11 cemeteries (289 acres)
- 4 SPR golf courses (451 acres) Note: SPR golf courses are included in SPR's 6,414 total acres (p. 18)
- 3 private golf courses (218 acres)
- Jackson Park Golf Course Perimeter Trail (2.2 miles)

Stewards:

- Private cemeteries and golf courses
- SPR
- Men's & Women's Golf Clubs at Jackson Park, West Seattle, Jefferson and Interbay
- Friends of Jackson Park Trail

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Implement walking trails along the perimeters of golf courses
- Open golf courses to non-golf uses and events during select time periods
- Encourage more entrances and pedestrian and bike paths through cemeteries
- Encourage more tours, activities, and community events in cemeteries



Lakeview Cemetery



West Seattle Golf Course

Privately Owned Public Space (POPS)

Spaces officially designated as Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS) are open to the public, and include plazas, arcades, atriums, hillclimbs, and green streets. These officially designated public spaces are created through the incentive zoning program within Seattle Land Use Code and are generally located in Center City. POPS may also be created as a result of a street vacation (permanent closure of a street). These spaces can be located in neighborhoods throughout Seattle, wherever a public space is created as a public benefit when City Council approves a street vacation.

There are other public spaces in the city that have private ownership, but were created voluntarily rather than through land use code requirements. Such spaces include Olympic Sculpture Park and Waterfall Park in downtown Seattle, and Ruby Chow Park in Georgetown. Several hospitals and nonprofit organizations also voluntarily provide public space on their campuses.

What we have:

49 officially designated POPS

Stewards:

- Private entities

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Create a mobile application that allows residents to locate POPS, particularly within the center city
- Improve signage, wayfinding, and visibility of POPS to encourage more awareness and usage of the spaces
- Create partnerships to activate POPS through events, activities, concerts, art installations, etc
- Eliminate barriers to public use of officially designated POPS
- Work with private developers to ensure new POPS are well-designed, visible, and welcoming to all



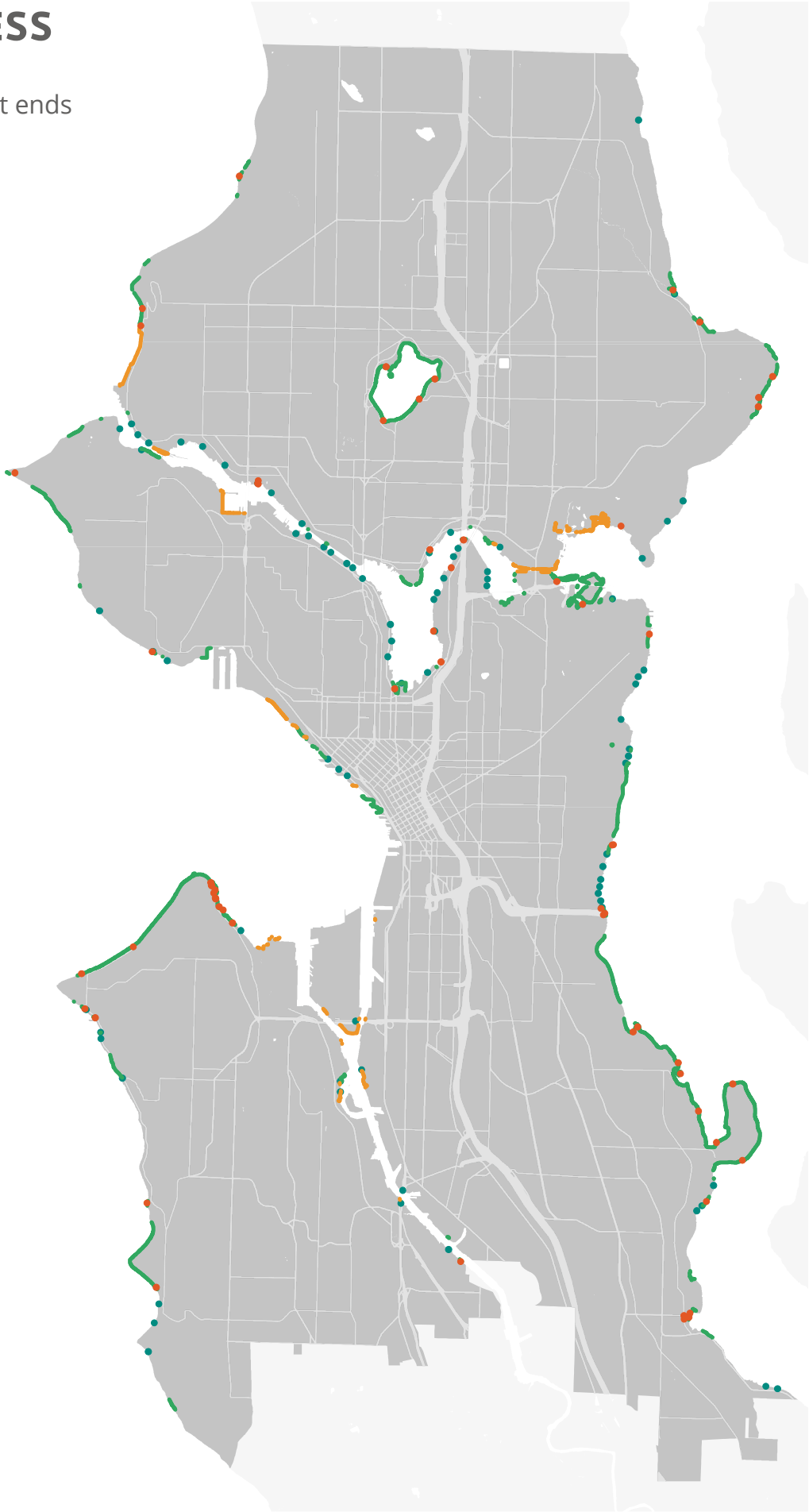
Wells Fargo Center



Olympic Sculpture Park

SHORELINE ACCESS

- Accessible shoreline street ends
- Boat launches and ramps
- SPR shorelines
- Other park shorelines



Shoreline Street Ends

The Shoreline Street Ends program is operated by SDOT's Public Space Management Program. The Shoreline Street Ends program is meant to provide public access at specific locations along the City's 200 miles of shoreline. SDOT has designated 149 shoreline street ends as special rights-of-way to be preserved and improved for public use. Publicly accessible shoreline street ends have the ability to strengthen neighborhoods, enhance shoreline habitats, and encourage community stewardship.

Although 149 identified shoreline street ends, less than one third have been improved for public use. Of the two-thirds of unimproved street ends, the following 9 street ends will be improved by SDOT in coming years: S Willow St, 51st Ave NE, Eastlake Ave NE, E Allison St, S River St, SW Michigan St, 5th Ave S, 6th Ave S, S Warsaw St.

What we have:

142 locations (7 no longer ROW due to Council actions or court decision)

Stewards:

- SDOT – Issues permits allowing others to improve and maintain
- SDCI – Enforces allowed uses
- Port of Seattle
- University of WA
- Friends of Shoreline Street Ends
- Community volunteers

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Focus on ecological restoration of shoreline habitat
- Create educational opportunities through signage
- Increase the number of streetends identified for improvements
- Create spaces that will further activate the surrounding community
- Prioritize street ends located in underserved communities

More information http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/stuse_stends.htm



South Willow Street and 56th Ave South



Diaganol Avenue South Public Shoreline

Port of Seattle and Army Corps of Engineers Public Space

The Port of Seattle (POS) owns and maintains publicly accessible waterfront parks and trails, piers, and marinas. The largest POS parks are Centennial Park on the Elliot Bay Trail and Jack Block Park in West Seattle, and Terminal 107 Park, the largest Seattle park on the Duwamish. In addition to shoreline views and access, these parks often have picnic areas and benches, public art, fishing piers, and habitat restoration areas. The Shilshole Bay Marina, Bell Harbor Marina and Fishermen's Terminal also provide public shoreline access and amenities such as public art and benches.

The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) owns two public spaces along the connection between Lake Washington and Puget Sound. The Carl S. English Jr. Botanical Garden and Hiram M. Chittenden Locks provide a pedestrian and bicycle crossing across the canal, as well as gardens, lawns and seating. The banks on either side of the Montlake Cut provide opportunities for people to view and walk along the water.

What we have:

21 locations; about 115 acres, (90 acres POS; 25 USACE)

Stewards:

- Port of Seattle
- Army Corps of Engineers

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Provide more benches and public amenities at marinas, piers, and terminals
- Connect the Duwamish River Trail and the Alki Trail to Terminal 105 Park via wayfinding or northward extension of the Duwamish River Trail
- Create floating wetland island south of Harbor Island
- Widen pedestrian path along the southern side of the Montlake Cut

More information: <https://www.portseattle.org/community/waterfront-parks>



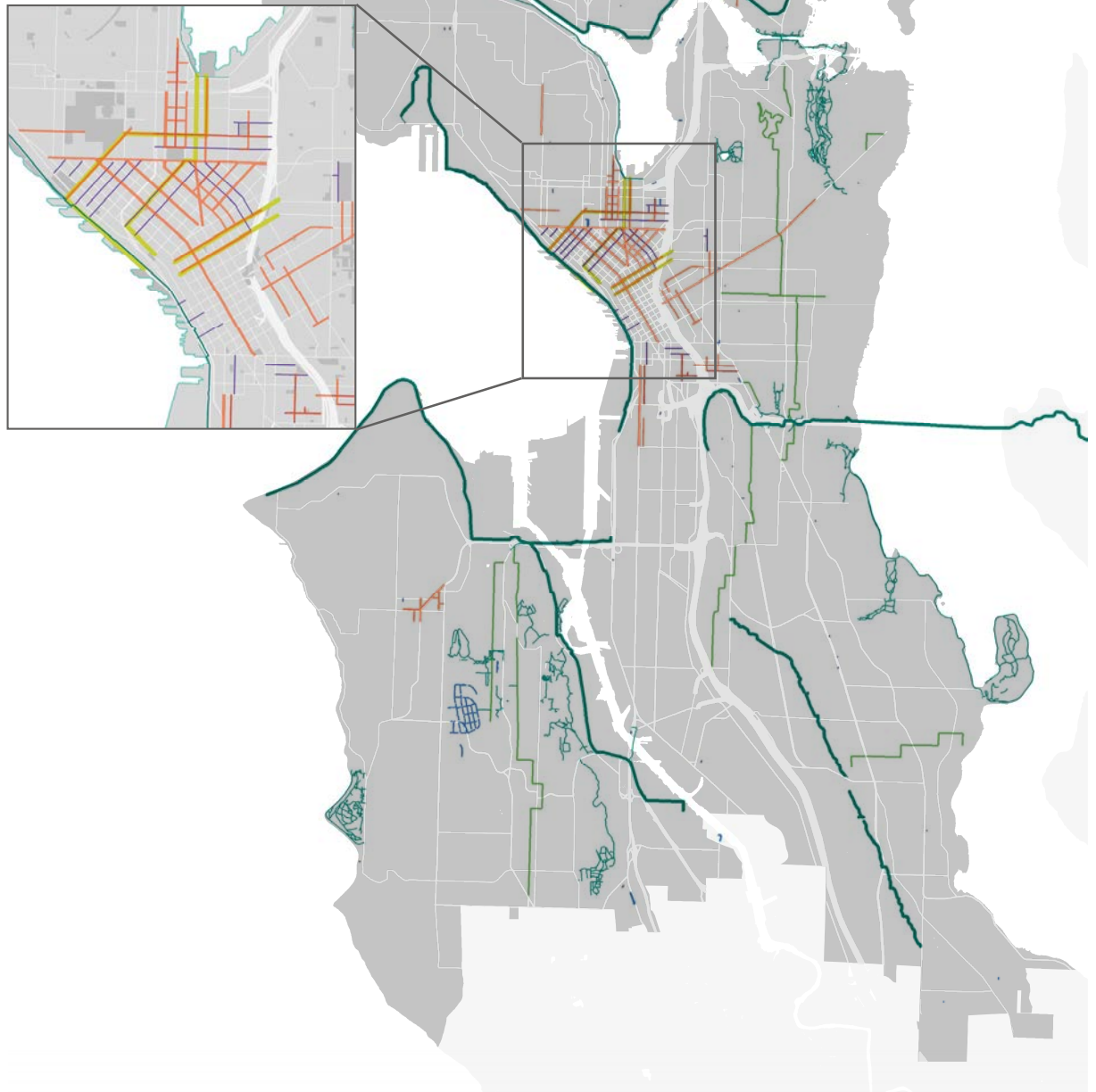
Jack Block Park



Terminal 107 Park

LINEAR PUBLIC SPACE

- Regional Trail
- Local Trail (at least 1 mile long)
- Neighborhood Greenway
- Green Street
- Streetscape Concept Plan
- Urban Marked Trail
- Green stormwater infrastructure in the right of way



Neighborhood Greenways

Neighborhood greenways are routes on residential streets that are optimized for safer bicycle and pedestrian travel for all ages and abilities. They are designed for lower vehicle speeds and volumes. Greenways can provide access to schools, trails, parks, transit and neighborhood businesses.

The changes made to transform residential streets into neighborhood greenways vary from one greenway to another. Common elements: directional signs, neighborhood greenway signs and pavement markings to alert drivers. There may be traffic calming elements such as traffic circles and speed humps. Additional elements that may be needed for busy intersections and streets: improved crossings with crosswalk, curb ramps, stop signs or upgraded traffic signals, median with gaps for pedestrians and bicyclists, restricting some vehicle turning movements, landscape improvements.

What we have:

20 neighborhood greenways groups formed

35 neighborhood greenways(15 existing; 6 in construction; 4 in design; 10 in planning)

Stewards:

- SDOT
- Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
- Core Seattle Neighborhood Greenways Members (Wallingford, Central, Green Lake, NE Seattle, Eastlake, South Lake Union, Madison, Ballard, Rainier Valley, University)

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Install roadside raingardens along neighborhood greenways
- Establish safe routes to schools, safe routes to parks
- Connect Georgetown to South Park
- Extend the Rainier Ave Safety Corridor Project north and south
- Make it easier and safer to walk and bike to and from the Capitol Hill light rail station
- Safe and dignified crossings of I-5
- Make walking and biking to light rail possible
- Make the 83rd and Greenwood intersection, the gateway to Greenwood, safe for families to cross
- Connect Uptown, South Lake Union, and beyond

More information <http://seattlegreenways.org/>

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/greenways-program>



Wallingford Neighborhood Greenway



Neighborhood Greenway

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) uses natural elements to slow, capture, and clean polluted runoff before it harms our lakes, rivers, and streams. The City of Seattle aims to manage 700 million gallons of polluted runoff per year with GSI by 2025.

GSI projects in public spaces include rain gardens, cisterns, bioretention, permeable pavement, vegetated roofs, and rainwater harvesting. Depending on the project type, GSI also provides additional benefits. Stormwater cisterns, for example, can be used for rainwater capture and reuse during the spring and summer months; Raingardens, green roofs, and trees add greenspace and enhance urban habitat, and roadside bioretention can be designed to improve pedestrian safety and beautify the streetscape.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) has replaced six of its open reservoirs with underground structures that will improve the quality and security of our water supply. Following SPU's reservoir covering projects, Seattle Parks and Recreation Department constructed recreational open space improvements over the covered reservoirs.

SPU has launched a new program to identify areas within urban villages for GSI retrofit projects. Successful projects will reduce drainage issues, improve overall greenspace and provide a community amenity.

What we have:

- 90 acres of new parkland on 6 reservoir lids: Magnolia Manor Park (1995), Cal Anderson Park (2004), Myrtle Reservoir Park (2008), Jefferson Park (2009), Westcrest Park (2010), Maple Leaf Reservoir Park (2012). Two additional reservoirs are under review: Roosevelt Reservoir, Volunteer Park Reservoir.
- Over 100 blocks of roadside GSI projects exist or are being developed in 8 neighborhoods: Ballard, Loyal Heights, Broadview/ Piper's Creek, Pinehurst/ Thornton Creek, Highpoint/Longfellow Creek, Delridge/Longfellow Creek, South Lake Union, Barton

Stewards

- Seattle Public Utilities
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Seattle Public Schools
- Community Volunteers



Pontius Ave



Broadview Green Grid

Opportunities and Ideas:

- GSI in schoolyards
- More spaces like Blue Dog Pond that combines stormwater management with off-leash dog area
- Closed green infrastructure loop along Alaska Way and Western Ave in partnership with Seattle 2030 District
- More green roofs, bioswales, raingardens, natural drainage
- Daylight creeks
- Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure in all street and sidewalk upgrades
- Cap more reservoirs to create parks
- Address stormwater and flooding
- Rainbarrel art projects

<http://www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/Projects/GreenStormwaterInfrastructure/index.htm>



Safe Routes to Schools

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a local, state, and national movement to make it easier and safer for students to walk and bicycle to school. The Seattle Department of Transportation supports this effort by funding engineering improvements, education, and encouragement campaigns at public and private schools throughout Seattle. Safe Routes to School programs focus on:

- Engineering: To build new sidewalks and curb ramps, improve crosswalks, coordinate with neighborhood greenways, and promote safe driving.
- Education: To give kids and families the pedestrian and bicycle safety skills and knowledge.
- Encouragement: To get more parents involved in their kids' schools and get kids more familiar with their neighbors and community.
- Enforcement: To make sure everyone obeys the rules of the road and traffic circulation plans adopted by school communities.
- Evaluation: To make sure our programs are achieving their goals.

Engineering improvements can include:

- Crossing improvements: crossing islands, curb bulbs, curb ramps, marked crosswalks, crossing beacons, 20 MPH zones, traffic signals.
- Along the street improvements: sidewalks, lane reductions, radar speed signs, bikeways.
- Other: speed humps and cushions, traffic circles, neighborhood greenways, bicycle parking.

What we have:

- Nine projects underway: North Seattle Greenway & School Safety Project, Dearborn Park Elementary, Wing Luke Elementary, John Rogers Elementary, Arbor Heights Elementary, Sanislo Elementary, Montlake Elementary, Rainier View Elementary

Stewards:

- SDOT
- Seattle School District
- Seattle Neighborhood Greenways
- Core Seattle Neighborhood Greenways Members (Wallingford, Central, Green Lake, NE Seattle, Eastlake, South Lake Union, Madison, Ballard, Rainier Valley, University)

Opportunities and Ideas:

- More safe routes to schools

http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/saferoutes_about.htm



A "bike train" heading to school.



Safe crossing for pedestrians and cyclists

Green Streets

A Green Street is a street right-of-way that, through a variety of design and operational treatments, gives priority to pedestrian circulation and open space over other transportation uses. The treatments may include sidewalk widening, landscaping, traffic calming, and other pedestrian-oriented features. The purpose of a Green Street is to enhance and expand public open space, and to reinforce desired land use and transportation patterns on appropriate City street rights-of-way. There are two types of Green Streets:

- Downtown Green Streets: defined and mapped in the Land Use Code.
- Neighborhood Green Streets: designated through neighborhood plans or other City adoption process (e.g., City Council Ordinance or Director's Rule).

What we have:

- 17 Downtown Green Streets (mandatory)
- 15 Neighborhood Green Streets (voluntary)

Stewards:

- SDOT regulates the right-of-way
- SDCI reviews proposed developments where green streets are required or encouraged
- OPCD works with communities to designate green streets
- Community-based organizations - advocate and participate in design of green streets
- Developer/ Property owner – build or maintain green streets consistent with streetscape plan

Opportunities and Ideas:

- More green streets in urban centers where land acquisition for parks is too expensive.

More information http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/manual/6_2.asp



Maynard Green Street



Terry Avenue Green Street

Street Concept Plans

Seattle has a growing number of areas where a Project Proponent (community-based organizations, developers and/or property owners, City departments or other agencies) is interested in developing an enhanced streetscape treatment for a street/streets using the guidance provided in Streets Illustrated (right-of-way improvements manual). The Project Proponent consults with SDOT to develop a Street Concept Plan, and submits it to SDOT for approval and incorporation into Streets Illustrated. Typically, a Street Concept Plan is implemented over time by multiple property owners as parcels re-develop. SDOT uses a Street Concept Plan to review and approve street improvements associated with new development. Although provisions in a Street Concept Plan are voluntary, property owners are encouraged to follow them. Street Concept Plans should be used as a tool to go well beyond the street design standards in Streets Illustrated. Currently, SDOT has approved 16 Street Concept Plans.

- South Lake Union Street Concept Plans
- Roosevelt Neighborhood Streetscape Concept Plan
- Thomas Green Street Concept Plan
- Denny Way Streetscape Concept Plan
- 10th & 11th Avenue Street Concept Plan
- The Street Element of the Ballard Municipal Center Plan
- Terry Avenue N. Street Design Guidelines
- Pike/Pine Streetscape Concept plan
- Queen Anne Avenue North Streetscape Concept Plan
- Maynard + Lane Green Streets Streetscape Concept Lane
- West Seattle Concept Plan
- Westlake & 7th Streetscape Concept Plan
- University District Alley Activation
- University District Green Streets
- Pontius Ave N
- First Hill Public Realm Action Plan

Stewards:

- Project Proponent (CBOs, developers, property owners, city/public agencies)
- SDOT

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Design streets with drainage

For more information: <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/urban-design-program/street-design-concept-plans>



Urban Marked Trails

Designs are underway for four corridors that will encourage more pedestrian traffic, and link neighborhoods with significant cultural institutions and public spaces.

What we have:

- Market to Mohai will link Pike Place Market to Lake Union through four neighborhoods: the Waterfront, Belltown, Denny Triangle, and South Lake Union. It will connect open spaces and cultural institutions along the way including the Waterfront, Seattle Aquarium, Pike Place Market, Victor Steinbrueck Park, Bell Street Park, Denny Park, Lake Union Park and MOHAI.
- Lake2Bay, 2-miles, will link Lake Union to Elliot Bay through five north downtown neighborhoods: the Waterfront, Belltown, Uptown, Denny Triangle and South Lake Union. It will and connect some of our region's most significant public spaces and cultural assets– the new Central Waterfront, the Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle Center, the Space Needle, EMP Museum, Pacific Science Center, Denny Park, MOHAI, and Lake Union Park.
- Pike Pine Renaissance is a streetscape plan that will link the Central Waterfront to the Pike Pine district.

Stewards:

- SDOT
- Seattle Center
- Seattle Parks Foundation
- Downtown Seattle Association
- Friends of Waterfront Seattle

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Strengthen east/ west connectors
- Create a green link from Capitol Hill to Volunteer Park
- Make the trail around Lake Union more visible and accessible



Lake2Bay Future Rendering



Pike Pine Renaissance Future Rendering

Pollinator Pathways

The Pollinator Pathway is a participatory art, design and ecology social sculpture initiative founded in 2008 by the artist and designer Sarah Bergmann. Its objective is to connect existing isolated green spaces and create a more hospitable urban environment for pollinators like bees with a system of ecological corridors of flowering plants by using existing urban infrastructure such as curb space and rooftops. The original Pollinator Pathway is a mile long corridor along Columbia Street that connects Seattle University's campus to Nora's Woods.

Approximately 1,500 volunteers and students have participated in the Seattle project, and hundreds more have participated in the project in other ways—through monitoring work, speaking—and the many scientists and planners who have helped to realize this project. Sarah Bergmann is now working with Seattle City Light, to establish a 14-mile-long Pollinator Pathway along a power-line corridor. Note: The Pollinator Pathway has not been adopted as a Street Concept Plan or Neighborhood Green Street.

What we have:

- 1 mile pollinator pathway in Central District completed
- 1 pollinator pathway planned

Stewards:

- Sarah Bergmann, Artist
- Seattle University, College of Science and Engineering, and the College of Arts and Sciences
- The University of Washington, School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
- Adjacent homeowners
- Community volunteers
- Seattle City Light

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Establish more pollinator pathways

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/pollinatorpathway/>



Columbia Street Pollinator Pathway



Pollinator Pathway Signage

Festival Streets

Festival streets are streets that can be closed to traffic for pedestrian-focused events on multiple occasions. A festival street designation allows community members to plan a series of events throughout the year with a single permit from SDOT, instead of requiring a special activity permit for each event. These streets are intended to help build neighborhood connections by hosting events that reflect the community's unique identity and interests. A proposal for a new festival street designation can be submitted by community groups, individuals, or any other organized local interest.

What we have:

To date Seattle has designated/permitted four festival streets:

- Canton Alley, Chinatown International District
- South Roberto Maestas Festival Street, Beacon Hill
- Nord Alley, Pioneer Square
- Triangle Festival Street, West Seattle

Stewards:

- SDOT
- OPCD
- OED
- Community-based organizations: program activities and events for festival streets
- Chinatown International District BIA
- El Centro de la Raza
- Alliance for Pioneer Square
- West Seattle BIA

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Encourage more Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) and community-based organizations to apply for festival street permits
- Free permit to close a street in each neighborhood once a year for an annual festival
- More car free days, open streets, ciclovía

For more information http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/psmp_festival.htm



S Roberto Maestas Festival Street



Nord Alley

Play Streets

Play Streets are streets where neighbors, schools or other organizations request a free permit to temporarily close a street to traffic to provide more space for kids (and adults) to play and be physically active. Neighborhood/community play streets help neighbors create more space for play. School-organized play streets provide additional space for recess or other after-school play. Play streets work well on streets with these four main characteristics:

- Residential-oriented streets with low volumes of traffic
- Not an arterial or bus route
- Where there's significant neighbor support
- Where access to parks/open space is difficult

Play streets can happen year round anywhere from a once a year to a maximum of three times per week and up to 6 hours/day. While many play street hosts have planned activities, play equipment, or food during their events, all you really need for a play street are some barricades and people who want to play. Play streets are very similar to the neighborhood block parties that happen across the city, but play streets tend to be smaller in scale and focused on active play. Both permits are simple and easy to get and allow neighbors to activate the streets near their homes.



Bicycling on a play street



Games on a play street

What we have:

- 350+ play streets held since 2013

Stewards:

- Individuals
- Community based organizations
- Schools (public and private)
- SDOT

Opportunities and Ideas:

- More child friendly facilities
- Provide portable play equipment

For more information <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/public-space-management-programs/play-streets>

Ciclovias/ Open Streets

Ciclovía is a Spanish word signifying the temporary closure of a network of streets to cars so that they become “open” to people. During a Ciclovía event anyone can bike, walk, skate and participate in fun, free activities.

What we have:

- Bicycle Sundays - Lake Washington Boulevard is closed to motorized vehicles between the Seward Park entrance and Mount Baker Park's beach on 12 Sundays from May to September from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Each year more than 36,000 people bike, jog, stroll or participated in Bicycle Sunday events.
- Emerald Bike Ride – Each year the Cascade Bicycle Club organizes the Emerald Bike Ride. The 2018 route gave 6,000+ riders the historic opportunity to bicycle the Alaskan Way Viaduct, Battery Street Tunnel and Aurora Bridge.

Stewards:

- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- SDOT
- WDOT
- Cascade Bicycle Club
- Seattle Neighborhood Greenways

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Make Bicycle Sunday year round
- Hold a Ciclovía in downtown

More information: <https://www.cascade.org/emeraldcityride>

<http://parkways.seattle.gov/tag/bicycle-sundays/>



Bicycle Sunday



Emerald Bike Ride

Regional Trails

Seattle's trail network includes the major regional trails (mostly off-street with some on-street connections) that can be used by bicyclists and pedestrians, as well as soft-surface trails within parks that are limited to pedestrians. Currently Seattle does not have a published trails master plan, so much of this information is drawn from King County Regional Trails. In Seattle, most non-right-of-way trails are managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation.

- The Burke-Gilman Trail: 20 mile paved, off-road route from Golden Gardens Park in Seattle to Bothell
- Magnolia Connector Trail: 2.7 mile paved, mostly on-road trail
- Ship Canal Trail: 1.9 mile paved, mostly off-road trail along the south side of the Ship Canal
- Interurban Trail (North): 12.9 miles paved, mostly off-road trail connecting the cities of Seattle and Shoreline, and continues on-road into the City of Edmonds and Snohomish County
- Elliott Bay Trail: 6.9 mile paved, mostly off-road trail that follows the Elliott Bay shoreline from King Street to Smith Cove Park in Magnolia
- Alki Trail: 4.2 mile paved, off-road trail along Alki Beach
- Duwamish Trail: 5.1 miles paved mostly off-road trail along the Duwamish River
- Mountains to Sound I-90 Trail: 11.5 miles paved path follows Interstate 90 across Lake Washington linking the cities of Seattle, Mercer Island, and Bellevue
- The Chief Sealth Trail: 4-mile greenway with paved, mostly off-road (within a Seattle City Light power line corridor) and some on-road segments.
- Seward Park Trail: 2.5 mile paved off-road trail along the shoreline of Seward Park.
- Green Lake Trail: 2.8 mile paved off-road trail along the shoreline of Green Lake.



Elliott Bay Trail



Burke Gilman Trail

What we have:

- 80+ miles of regional trails (trails listed above)

Stewards:

- Seattle Parks and Recreation
- SDOT
- Seattle City Light
- Non-Profits: Seattle Parks Foundation, Cascade Bicycle Club, Feet First

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Connect the Chief Sealth Trail to downtown
- Build the Burke Gilman Missing Link
- Build regional trail along the Duwamish

Special Events, Neighborhood Block Parties, Farmers Markets, Night Out

Street fairs, farmers markets, and other community events can enliven neighborhoods, encourage walking, and support local businesses. Organizers are required to apply for a permit to authorize the temporary use of streets and sidewalks. The type of permit varies by the type of event.

What we have:

- Special Events - large-size events that anticipate attendance of 300+ or more people, that end after dark, requires the assistance of the Seattle Police Department, or requires the closure of an arterial street. Permits are issued by an interdepartmental special event committee.
- Special Activities- mid-size events that temporarily close a non-arterial street and are open to the general public. Permits are issued by SDOT.
- Neighborhood Block Parties - close residential streets and are only for people living along that particular block. Neighborhood Block Parties can be hosted once per month during daylight hours and require a permit. Invite your neighbors, friends, and family to have fun in the street. About 250 permits are issued by SDOT each year.
- Night Out - Falling on the first Tuesday of every August, “Night Out Against Crime” is a national event that encourages neighbors to gather and spend time together in an effort to heighten crime prevention/awareness, increase neighborhood safety, organize your block and address other neighborhood concerns. Registered events can block off non-arterial streets (without a fee).
- Farmers Market - Organizations that meet the definition of a Farmers Market qualify for a Farmers Market Street Use permit. Similar to other Special Activity permits, Farmers Markets may only occur on non-arterial streets and are discouraged on Metro bus routes. The Office of Economic Development (OED) administers the Farmers Market Program for the City.



Columbia City Farmers Market



Neighborhood Night Out in Rainier Valley

Stewards

- SDOT, Seattle Police Department, DON, OED, Special Events Committee
- Businesses, BIDs, Community organizations
- Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance, Seattle Farmers Market Association

Opportunities and Ideas:

- Identify affordable insurance options for community organizations.
- Need open space where people can go and enjoy themselves
- Free permit to close a street in each neighborhood once a year for an annual festival

More information: <http://www.seattle.gov/special-events-office>

Public Space Programs & Plans

The City has many programs to improve and activate public space, as well as, plans for future public spaces.

Recent or Upcoming Projects with Public Space Component

GREENWAY INITIATIVES (SDOT, SPR, SPU)

Starting in 2016, Seattle Parks and Recreation Greenways Initiative will provide projects and programs to connect, enhance and activate pedestrian and bicycle links from Neighborhood Greenways to Parks. The program will fund capital improvements, activation and events. SPU and SDOT are working together on select Neighborhood Greenway projects to include roadside rain gardens and tree planting along neighborhood greenways. Delridge-Highland Park Greenway is an example.

DEVELOPMENT OF LANDBANKED PARKS (SPR)

The Seattle Park District has budgeted funding for the development of 14 new parks at landbanked sites, land acquired before capital funding was available to design and construct park improvements. Land-banked sites for development include: Christie Park expansion, Baker Park expansion, Greenwood Park expansion, North Rainer, Greenwood-Phinney Park, AB Ernst Park, West Seattle Junction, Wedgwood, Lake City, Denny Triangle, South Park Plaza, and Morgan Junction. Planning for five sites began in 2016 (five sites), will continue in 2017 (four sites), 2018 (five sites).

OLMSTED LEGACY TASK FORCE (SPR, SDOT, SPU, OPCD, FRIENDS OF OLMSTED PARKS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

Park planners across the country recognize Seattle's Olmsted park system as one of the best preserved and best designed in the United States. SPR formed a task force to develop recommendations on how the City can best preserve, protect and expand the Olmsted Legacy in our parks. SPR has asked the task force to consider design standards, maintenance best practices, educational programs, new green connections between parks, innovative management approaches, and funding priorities. Task force recommendations will be presented to the SPR Superintendent and the Board of Park Commissioners.

SOUTH PARK DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (SPU)

Seattle Public Utilities is currently working on three stormwater projects to reduce flooding in the lower industrial basin located in the northwestern part of South Park and improve water quality in the Lower Duwamish Waterway. SPU plans to construct the flood control pump station to overcome the effects of high tide and a water quality facility that will treat stormwater from the storm drain system before it flows into the Duwamish Waterway.

NORTH TRANSFER STATION (SPU)

The North Transfer Station is a state of the art facility designed to improve customer safety, increase capacity and efficiency, and reduce odor and noise. SPU worked with the community through a collaborative design process to create a facility that includes community amenities and sustainable features, such as public open spaces, green stormwater infrastructure and solar panels.

PUBLIC SPACE AT DENNY SUBSTATION (SCL)

The Denny Substation will serve the growing area of high-tech and bio-tech industries in South Lake Union, as well as other high-use customers across north downtown, and bring critical improvements to the regional transmission grid. Though most of the site will be used for substation operations, City Light worked with the community and the Seattle Design Commission for two years to design a substation that will enhance the neighborhood. It will include over 44,000 square feet of open space, an elevated interpretive walkway, public art, an off-leash area, two community event spaces and numerous neighborhood streetscape improvements.

Public Space Projects in the 2017-2022 Capital Improvement Program

This list of public space projects is drawn from the City of Seattle Budget, 2017-2022 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP). For the most recent CIP information, go to <http://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/>.

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION

- 14th Avenue NW Park Boulevard (\$2.6M)
- Bryant Site Development (\$11.3m)
- Smith Cove Park Development (\$6.2m)
- Victor Steinbrueck Parking Envelope (\$5.0m)
- Beach Restoration (\$1.0m)
- Improve 14 Dog Off-leash Area (\$0.7m)
- Activating and Connecting to Greenways (\$1.7m)
- Develop 14 new parks at Land-Banked sites (\$18.6m)
- Major Project Challenge Fund (\$14.0m)
- Central Waterfront Piers (\$96.0m)
- Saving Our City Forests (\$19 m)
- Green Seattle Partnership (\$23.1m)
- Urban Forestry Restoration Program (\$2.7m)
- Tree Replacement Program (\$2.6m)
- Rejuvenate P-Patches (\$1.8m)
- Major Maintenance Backlog (\$139.7m)
- Neighborhood Response Program (\$3.8m + NMF \$)
- Parkland Acquisition (\$22.0m)
- Park Upgrade Program (low income neighborhoods, \$9.3m)
- Play Area Renovations (\$8.5m) (improvements based on Play Area Inventory and Assessment Report)
- Play Area Safety Surfaces (\$1.4m)
- Trail Renovation (\$4.7m)

SEATTLE CENTER

- Replacement skateboard park
- Open Space Restoration and Repair (\$13.2m)
- Public Gathering Space Improvements (\$10.5m)

SDOT

- Greenways (\$17.3m)
- Protected Bike Lanes (\$106,071m)
- Urban Trails and Bikeways (\$6.0m)
- Your Voice Your Choice Fund (\$7.0m)
- Safe Routes to Schools (\$23.6m)
- Stairway Rehabilitation (\$8.5m)
- Accessible Mt. Baker (\$29.4m)
- Burke Gilman Missing Link (\$13.3m)
- Delridge Multi-modal Corridor (\$47m)
- Fauntleroy Way SW Boulevard (\$19.2m)
- Market to MOHAI (\$0.5m)
- Northgate Pedestrian Bridge (\$37.9m)
- Overlook Walk & E/W Connections (\$170.4m)
- Broadview Pedestrian Improvements (\$8.0m)
- SPU Drainage Partnership – South Park (\$10.0m)
- Neighborhood Large Projects (\$20m)
- New Sidewalks (\$68.0m)
- Vision Zero, safety projects in 15 high accident corridors (\$24.4m)

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

- Ship Canal Water Quality Project (will include some public space improvements)
- South Park Stormwater Program (\$55.6m)
- 1% for Art Fund- Water (\$10.0m)
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program (\$29.8m)
- GSI for Protection of Beneficial Uses (\$96.8m)
- Localized Flood Control Program (\$35.4m)
- Protection of Beneficial Uses Program (\$24.1m)
- South Park Development, cleanup planning for the historic South Park Landfill (\$17.5m)
- South Transfer Station Rebuild (\$40.0m)
- 1% for Art Fund- SW (\$2.3m)
- Reservoir Covering – Beacon (\$12.0m)
- Reservoir Covering-Bitter Lake (\$30.0m)
- 1% for Art Fund -Waterfront Seattle (\$7.2m)

Ongoing City Programs

CREEK DAYLIGHTING AND OTHER NATURAL RESTORATION PROJECTS (SPU)

Daylighting is the redirection of a stream into an above-ground channel. Typically, the goal is to restore a stream of water to a more natural state. Daylighting is intended to improve the riparian environment for a stream which had been previously diverted into a culvert, pipe, or a drainage system.

GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP (SPR, OSE, SPU, SDOT, FORTERRA)

The Green Seattle Partnership is a collaboration between the City of Seattle, Forterra, community groups, non-profits, businesses, schools, and thousands of volunteers working together to restore and actively maintain the City's forested parklands. Green Seattle Partnership has a 20-Year Strategic Plan that was last updated in 2017.

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM: PUBLIC ACCESS, HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (HEP) AND MITIGATION (SDCI, SDOT, SPR, SPU)

The Shoreline Master Program regulates development in the city's shoreline environments to protect shoreline ecosystems, respond to pollution discharges into bodies of water, encourage water-dependent uses, provide for maximum public use and enjoyment of the shorelines, and preserve, enhance, and increase views of and access to the water. If mitigation is required, SDCI can allow the payment of fees in lieu of some or all of the mitigation. Fees are paid into a fund for ecological restoration, creation, rehabilitation, and/or enhancement projects in the Shoreline District.

EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (OSE)

Equity & Environment Initiative (EEI), a partnership of the City, the community, several City departments, and private foundations to deepen Seattle's commitment to race and social justice in environmental work by creating an Environmental Action Agenda centered on equity. The Office of Sustainability and Environment staff the initiative.

ONGOING MONITORING OF PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC SPACES (SDCI)

Privately Owned Public Space (POPS) is a term used to describe a type of public space that, although privately owned, is legally required to be open to the public under a Seattle's zoning ordinance, other land use law, or a street vacation (permanent closure of a street). POPS can be plazas, arcades, atriums, hillclimbs, and green streets. The rules in the Seattle Land Use Code that create POPS have been in place for several decades. POPS are generally located in Seattle's Center City. Currently Seattle has over 40 POPS, and SDCI is working to have signs posted at all locations, and will update the inventory of POPS periodically as new projects are built.

DISPOSITION OF SURPLUS LAND (FAS)

In 2015, Seattle City Light (SCL) had about 20 surplus properties. Most of these are former 4 kV substations that are no longer needed since City Light changed to a 26 kV electric distribution system. Many of these substations have been out of service more

than 25 years. The total value of these surplus properties is estimated to be over \$27 million. Some community advocates have requested that the City retain all surplus substation sites be reused as open space.

SEATTLE GREEN FACTOR LANDSCAPING STANDARDS (SDCI, OPCD, SDOT, SPU)

Based on precedents from Berlin and Malmö, Seattle's Green Factor landscape standards require a higher level of landscape amenities in new commercial and multifamily residential development. The scoring system strongly encourages green roofs, rain gardens, and tree protection, and includes incentives for providing more "green" in or adjacent to the right of way.

SEATTLE CONSERVATION CORPS (SPR)

The Seattle Conservation Corps, established in 1986, is a unique SPR program that provides employment for people experiencing homelessness. This program gives homeless adults opportunities to train and work in a structured program that provides them with job skills and carries out projects that benefit our citizens and our environment. It's a year-round employment program with an annual budget of about \$4 million.

City Grant Programs & Public Space

NEIGHBORHOOD MATCHING FUND (DON)

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund> The Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF) program was created in 1988 to provide matching dollars for neighborhood improvements, organizing, and other projects that are developed and implemented by community members. Core to the fund is the community match, which requires awardees to match their award with contributions including volunteer time, donated materials, donated professional services or cash. Since 1988, the Fund has awarded more than \$49 million to more than 5,000 projects throughout Seattle and generated an additional \$72 million of community match. Many of the projects proposed by communities are to improve public space. The NMF awards around \$3.1 million annually and has two funds: Small Sparks, which funds projects up to \$5,000 on a rolling basis, and the Community Partnership Fund, which funds projects between \$5,000 and \$100,000 three times a year.

YOUR VOICE YOUR CHOICE (DON)

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/your-voice-your-choice> Your Voice, Your Choice: Parks & Streets is a participatory budgeting initiative in which Seattle residents democratically decide how to spend a portion of the City's budget on small-scale park and street improvements. In 2017, \$285,000 is set aside for each City Council District, and community members over the age of 11 can cast their ballots for their top three choices in the district where they live, work, go to school, receive services, or volunteer.

DUWAMISH RIVER OPPORTUNITY FUND (DON)

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/duwamish-river-opportunity-fund> The Duwamish River Opportunity Fund (DROF) supports existing and new programs focused on challenges faced by Duwamish River communities. DROF is one component of a broader City effort to improve the quality of life and restore the health of Duwamish River communities. The total amount of 2018 funding available for the Duwamish River Opportunity Fund is \$250,000. Proposals should address one or more of the following: safe fishing or fish consumption, environmental development or restoration, job training or economic development, community development, pedestrian safety, affordable housing strategies and healthy lifestyle.

WESTLAKE AND OCCIDENTAL SQUARE PARKS AGREEMENT (SPR WITH DOWNTOWN SEATTLE ASSOCIATION)

In 2015, SPR launched the Urban Parks Partnership Initiative with a one-year pilot agreement with the Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) to activate Westlake Park. Following that successful year, SPR and DSA entered into a 5-year agreement in 2016 for DSA to activate both Westlake and Occidental Square Parks. DSA, working with additional partners Alliance for Pioneer Square, Seattle Parks Foundation, and Friends of Waterfront Seattle, has outfitted the parks with new furniture, games, reading areas, and full-time staff 7 days a week. Daily programming such as concerts, fitness classes,

food trucks, and a wide variety of events ensures they remain vibrant spaces for everyone to enjoy.

URBAN PARKS ACTIVATION PARTNERSHIPS (SPR WITH CASCADE PLAYGROUND ACTION COMMITTEE, JIM ELLIS FREEWAY PARK ASSOCIATION, INTERIM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION, BELLTOWN PARKS AND ARTS COMMITTEE)

In 2016 Seattle Parks and Recreation expanded the Urban Parks Partnership Initiative to include new community partners and parks. Following an RFP process, the program established agreements with qualifying community groups, providing funding and support to generate community-based efforts in activating our downtown parks. Four agreements were established with the Cascade Playground Action Committee, Jim Ellis Freeway Park Association, Interim Community Development Association, and the Belltown Parks And Arts Committee with the purpose of making active and welcoming spaces for everyone to enjoy. As a result, Cascade Playground, Freeway Park, Hing Hay Park, Danny Woo Community Garden/Kobe Terrace, Donnie Chin International Children's Playground, Bell Street Park, Tilikum Place, and Belltown Cottage Park and P-patch have all benefitted from a wide variety of activities and programs, including movies and music, community cook-outs, arts events, evening dances, ping pong tournaments, and much more.

ARTS IN PARKS PROGRAM (OAC, SPR)

<http://www.seattle.gov/arts/arts-in-parks> This program supports neighborhood arts councils, community-based groups, and individual artists that are seeking to activate Seattle parks in underserved and economically constrained areas of the city with new and established festivals or events that promote arts and cultural participation, celebrate our diversity, build community connections, and activate parks through arts and culture while connecting with underserved communities including low-income, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color.

MAJOR PROJECTS CHALLENGE FUND (SPR)

http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParkDistrict/Projects/MPCF_2018CriteriaAndTimeline.pdf The Seattle Park District Major Projects Challenge Fund (MPCF) is an initiative which leverages Seattle Park District funding with community-raised matching funds. The MPCF awards are based on a recommendation from the Seattle Park District Oversight Committee and confirmed by the SPR Superintendent. Each year the City awards \$1.6 million for park improvement projects.

RECREATION FOR ALL (SPR)

<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/special-initiatives-and-programs/recreation-for-all> <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/special-initiatives-and-programs/recreation-for-all> The Recreation for All fund, through the Seattle Park District, provides financial support to local nonprofit organizations, small businesses, community groups, and individuals to provide culturally relevant programs and events throughout the City of Seattle. Programs or events must be held in community centers, parks, or facilities in neighborhoods where health and enrichment disparities are prevalent and serve the fund's priority populations and communities including adults, LGBTQ+, immigrant and refugee populations, people of color, and people with disabilities.

GET MOVING FUND (SPR)

The Get Moving initiative funds culturally relevant physical activities for communities where health disparities are prevalent. Funded activities will strengthen the collaboration between SPR and Seattle communities. Projects must focus on communities where health disparities are prevalent, and provide physically active programming

TEEN ENHANCEMENT FUND (SPR)

SPR's annual Teen Enhancement Fund supports programs for youth ages 11-19 that contributes to SPR's outcomes of Healthy People, Healthy Environments, and Strong Communities. To apply for these funds, you must be a SPR staff member. The Teen Enhancement funds will be awarded to programs between the amount of \$3,000 and \$10,000.

HOPE FOR YOUTH FUND (SPR)

The goal of SPR's Hope for Youth fund supports youth serving organizations, including youth sports organizations serving marginalized and economically distressed communities. In 2018 \$42,000 is available.

COMMUNITY CROSSWALKS (SDOT)

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/pedestrian-program/community-crosswalks> Special painted crosswalks are a great way to represent a neighborhood. They can be used to showcase a community's unique culture and history or just liven up an intersection with artistic and colorful stripes. Communities apply through Neighborhood Matching Fund for crosswalk projects.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS MINI-GRANTS (SDOT)

<http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/safety-first/safe-routes-to-school/mini-grants> All public and private K-12 schools, Parent Student Teacher Associations, and other nonprofit groups can apply for grants to support various programs to promote walking and biking to school such as walk/bike to school days, walking school bus, bike train program, bike rodeo, student safety patrol, pedestrian crossing flags, intersection painting, traffic circulation changes on school property.

NEIGHBORHOOD STREET FUNDS (SDOT)

Funds transportation improvement in the right-of-way with an anticipated cost greater than \$100,000. Residents, businesses, community groups, and non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply for support of their neighborhood transportation priorities.

TREES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS (SDOT, SPU, OSE)

Since 2009, Trees for Neighborhoods has helped Seattle residents plant over 8,300 trees in their yards and along the street. Residents can receive up to four free trees per household, training and technical assistance, watering bag, mulch, ongoing care reminders, future pruning workshop opportunities, and street tree evaluations.

ONLY IN SEATTLE (OED)

<https://www.seattle.gov/economicdevelopment/business-districts/about-only-in-seattle> Only in Seattle provides grant funding and staff support to foster inclusive neighborhood business districts that allow small businesses to thrive. The program focuses on supporting businesses and property owners to organize around a common vision for their district and attract investment. Participating districts start by developing a strategic vision, creating an action plan, and determining clear outcomes and leads, and getting to work. From new crosswalks, murals, and lighting improvements, to business coaching, community festivals, and litter cleanup, Seattle's business districts have used Only in Seattle resources to put their vision into action.

Current Citywide Plans

SEATTLE 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN + PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT (OPCD)

A new Parks and Open Space element of the Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2016, includes guiding policies for a broad system of City-owned parks and other public spaces. The Plan contains other public space policies in the Growth Strategy, Transportation, Capital Facilities, Utilities, Environment, Economic Development, Community Wellbeing, and Shoreline Area elements.

MOVE SEATTLE 10-YEAR STRATEGIC VISION (SDOT)

Move Seattle sets out a 10-year plan for a transportation system that meets present demands while looking ahead to future needs for a safe, affordable, connected system that works for people regardless of mode choice.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE MASTER PLANS (SDOT)

These 10-year action plans, drafted by SDOT, describe the systems and infrastructure needed to make Seattle a more walkable and bikable city. Each plan includes a detailed list of prioritized projects to achieve goals.

STREETS ILLUSTRATED RIGHT OF WAY IMPROVEMENT MANUAL (SDOT)

Streets Illustrated, Seattle's Right-of-Way Improvements Manual, is an on-line resource that provides design guidance and standards, and processes on how to design, build, and manage within the right-of-way.

2017 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLAN (SPR)

The 2017 Parks and Open Space Plan is a six-year plan that documents and describes SPR's facilities and lands, looks at Seattle's changing demographics, and lays out a vision for the future. The 2017 Plan is required by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to maintain the City of Seattle's eligibility for state grants and funding programs that will help realize outdoor recreation development and open space acquisition projects.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (OSE)

The Seattle Climate Action Plan, adopted in June 2013, focuses on city actions that reduce greenhouse emissions and support vibrant neighborhoods, economic prosperity, and social equity. Actions are focused on areas of greatest need and impact: road transportation, building energy and waste. The plan also includes actions that will increase our community's resilience to the likely impacts of climate change.

RESILIENCE PLAN/ STRATEGY (OSE)

In 2016 Seattle was selected to participate in the 100 Resilient Cities. Pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation, 100RC helps cities around the world become more resilient to social, economic, and physical challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

100RC provides this assistance through: funding for a Chief Resilience Officer in each of our cities who will lead the resilience efforts; resources for drafting a Resilience Strategy; access to private sector, public sector, academic, and NGO resilience tools; and membership in a global network of peer cities to share best practices and challenges.

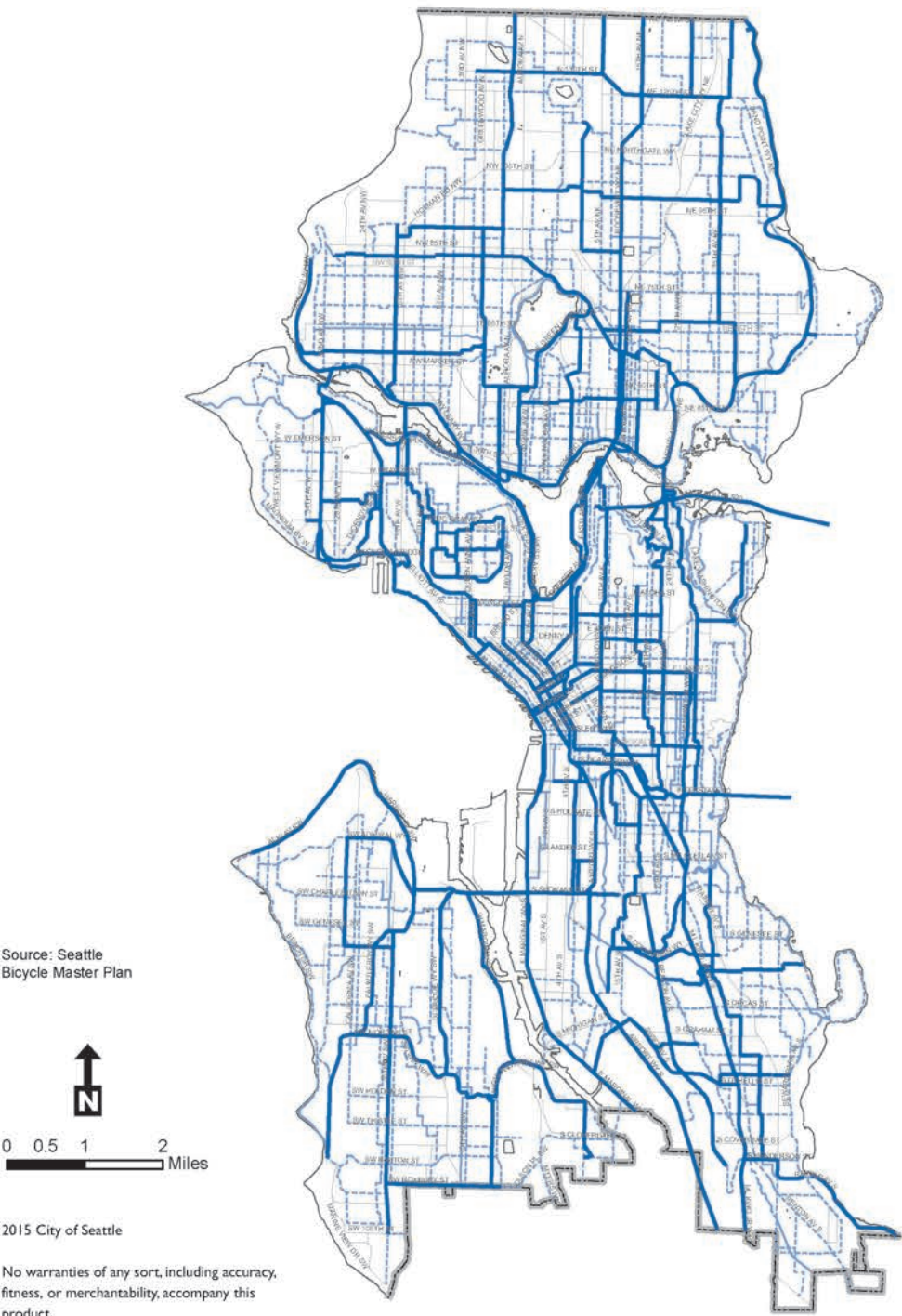
URBAN FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN (OSE)

In September 2013, the City of Seattle adopted the Urban Forest Stewardship Plan with four goals for Seattle's urban forest:

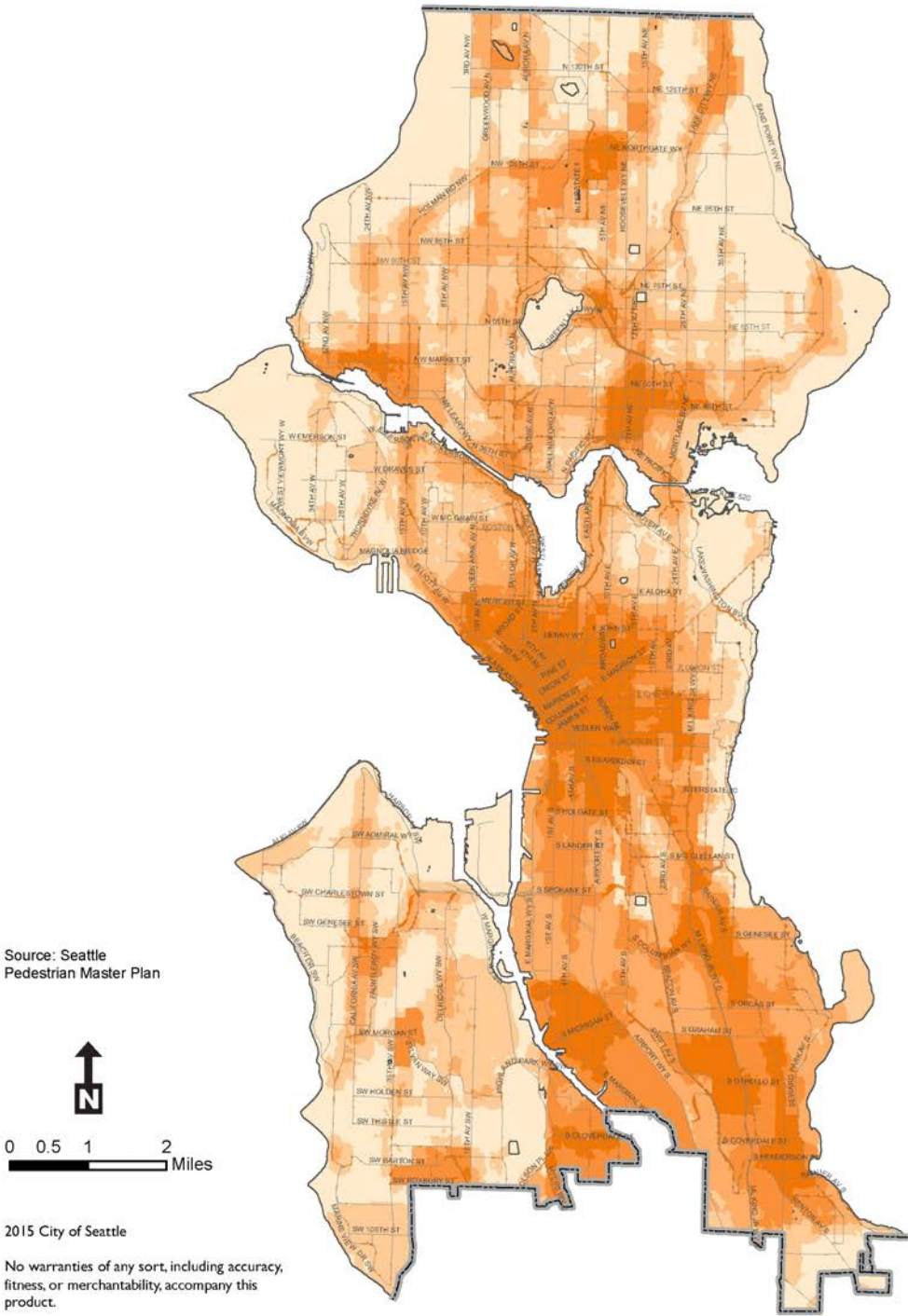
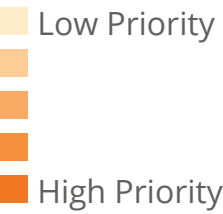
- Create an ethic of stewardship about the urban forest among City staff, community organizations, businesses, and residents
- Strive to replace and enhance specific urban forest functions and benefits when trees are lost, and achieve a net increase in the urban forest functions and related environmental, economic, and social benefits
- Expand canopy cover to 30 percent by 2037
- Increase health and longevity of the urban forest by removing invasive species and improving species and age diversity"

RECOMMENDED BICYCLE NETWORK

- Citywide Network
- - Local Connector Network



PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREAS



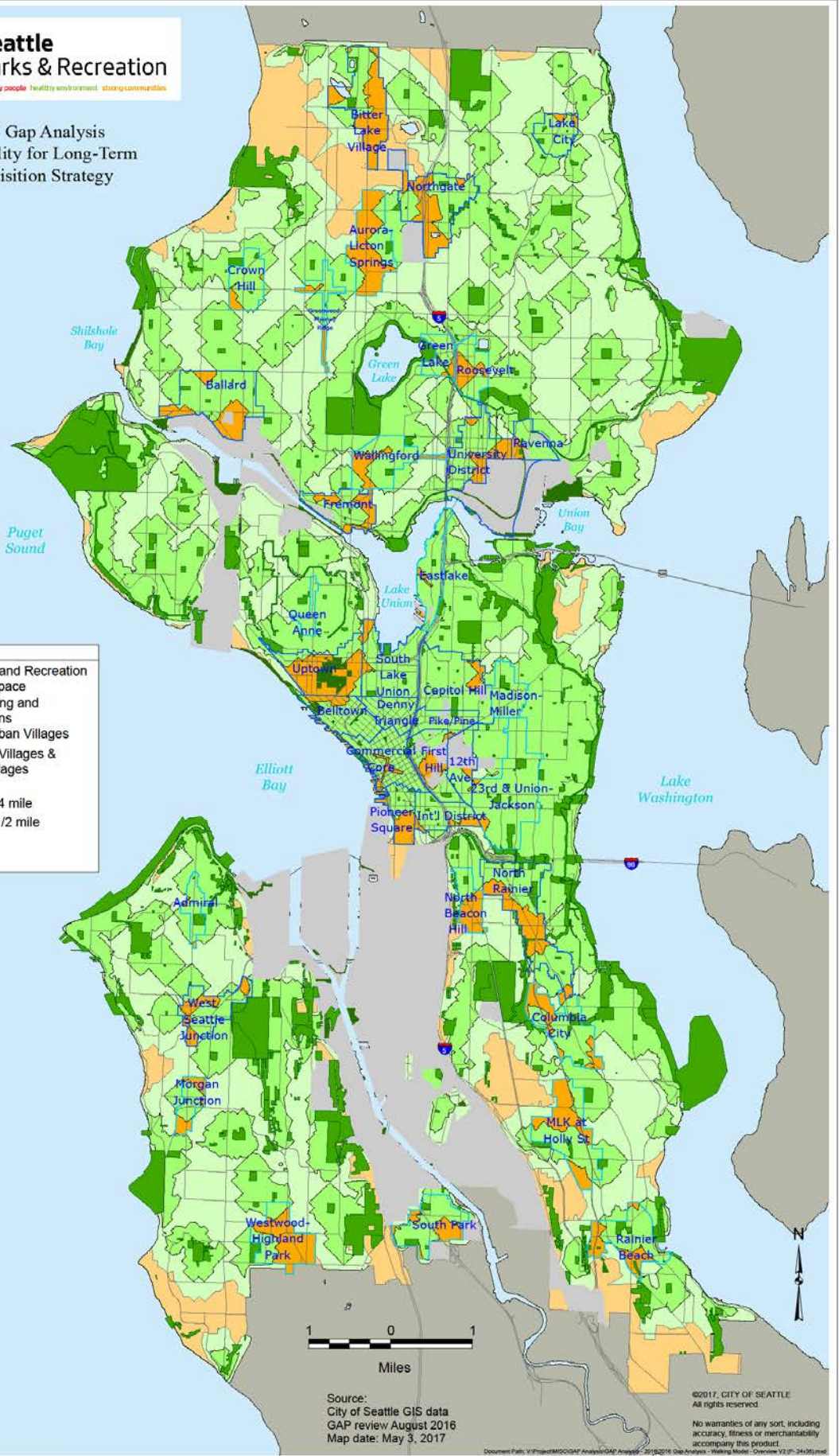


Seattle Parks & Recreation

healthy people healthy environment strong communities

2017 Gap Analysis Walkability for Long-Term Acquisition Strategy

- LEGEND**
- Seattle Parks and Recreation
 - Other Open Space
 - Industrial Zoning and Major Institutions
 - Residential Urban Villages
 - Urban Center Villages & Hub Urban Villages
- Walkability**
- 5 minutes - 1/4 mile
 - 10 minutes - 1/2 mile
 - UV Gaps
 - Gaps



Focused Plans and Studies

IMAGINE GREATER DOWNTOWN (SDOT, ST, OPCD, SPR, KC METRO, DOWNTOWN SEATTLE ASSOCIATION)

www.imaginegreaterdowntown.org Imagine Greater Downtown is a project that puts people first when planning for the future of our public places and how we get around. It will bring together many communities, perspectives, and partners to create a 20-year vision for how we move through, connect to, and experience Seattle's Center City.

IMPACT FEE POLICY ASSESSMENT AND WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT (OPCD, SPR, SDOT, FAS)

<http://www.seattle.gov/opcd/ongoing-initiatives/impact-fees#whatwhy> Council included \$300,000 in the 2015 budget to fund the evaluation and development of a proposal related to impact fees for the City of Seattle. Four types of impact fees authorized by the Growth Management Act will be evaluated: transportation; school facilities; fire facilities; and parks, recreation facilities and open space. This study is underway.

INCENTIVE ZONING UPDATE (OPCD)

<http://www.seattle.gov/opcd/ongoing-initiatives/incentive-zoning-update#whatwhy> Incentive zoning is a tool that allows new development in certain areas to voluntarily achieve extra floor area in exchange for providing certain public benefits. Incentive Zoning is one way that the City ensures that new development contributes to infrastructure investments in growing neighborhoods. Open space is one of the public benefits included in incentive zoning. A final proposal for this update is expected in Spring 2019.

FEASIBILITY STUDY OF LAND TRUST STRATEGIES FOR ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND IN SEATTLE (SPR, FORTERRA)

This study will examine new funding strategies to complement public investments to evaluate potential partnership/ funding models, including urban land trusts, conservancies, and other partnerships.

HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND VULNERABILITY STUDY (OSE)

A 2009 study of vulnerability on a national scale found that Seattle is on par with Chicago, site of a 1995 event that killed over 700 people. The study found that four factors drove heat vulnerability. These four are social isolation, lack of air conditioning, the proportion the population with chronic medical conditions and social vulnerability factors such as race, poverty, age, and housing conditions. The authors suggested that local and regional factors also play a role and suggested research of these as a next step in defining local hazard exposure.

UNDEVELOPED ROW IN GREENBELTS AND OTHER AREAS (SDOT, SPR)

SDOT and SPR are discussing how best to own and manage undeveloped rights of way within SPR's greenbelts. Both agencies would like to make it easier to undertake restoration projects as part of the Green Seattle Partnership. SDOT has begun identifying undeveloped rights-of-way within communities, beyond those already identified as part of the shoreline street ends program. Inspired by the success of the shoreline street ends program, this analysis could provide additional public space opportunities. (E.g. Olympic Hills)

NEW PUBLIC SPACE ZONE

Seattle does not have a specific zone within the Land Use Code for permanent parks or open space. These assets have an underlying zone that was created to regulate residential, commercial or industrial uses. Single family zoning can limit or restrict desirable use and activation of the public space. The underlying zoning creates a public perception that these lands are not permanently protected, and could be redeveloped for other uses allowed by zoning. From time to time, the City has considered creating an open space zone that could be applied to public spaces with uses and development standards specifically for public spaces.

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN (SDCI, SPU)

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/codesrules/codes/shorelinemasterprogram/default.htm>

This Plan supports the Seattle Shoreline Master Plan. It includes a detailed inventory and characterization of the shoreline ecosystem, and describes how and where potential exists for shoreline restoration within City of Seattle. It is a guide for identifying opportunities to improve the ecological function of Seattle shorelines.

FIRST HILL PUBLIC REALM ACTION PLAN (SDOT, OPCD, SPR)

<http://www.seattle.gov/opcd/ongoing-initiatives/first-hill-parks-and-public-space#whatwhy>

The First Hill Public Realm Action Plan includes strategies to expand the public space network for pedestrians, a system of sidewalks, green streets, parks, and rest areas that encourage walking. Our effort will also help provide spaces for a variety of recreation options in the First Hill Neighborhood, like places to jog, play basketball, read, or just enjoy the view. The plan also identifies key streets to be developed into Street Concept Plans. Street Concept Plans are guides for street and sidewalk improvements that can be made over time as new development takes place.

Other Government and Community Efforts

KING COUNTY LAND CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION INITIATIVE (UNDERWAY)

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/services/environment/water-and-land/land-conservation.aspx> This Initiative would conserve and preserve remaining high conservation value lands throughout King County within the next 30 years. Five categories of land are being studied as part of this effort: natural areas, farmland, forests, river valley and nearshore lands, and trail corridor connections. The Initiative calls for preserving such lands in cities as well as rural and urban unincorporated areas of King County.

PSRC REGIONAL OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PLAN (2018)

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/regional-open-space-conservation-plan> The Regional Open Space Conservation Plan knits together open space and related plans from counties, tribes, resource agencies, salmon recovery groups, and other organizations. The plan identifies and elevates these open space needs to attract funding and support.

GEORGETOWN OPEN SPACE VISION FRAMEWORK, SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION AND PARTNERS (2016)

<https://www.seattleparksfoundation.org> The Georgetown Open Space Vision Framework is a collaborative planning exercise. The process will help the neighborhood better understand, share, and prioritize open space needs. It will also help guide open space improvements soon as it provides the foundation for a community-owned plan.

MELROSE PROMENADE

<https://melrosepromenade.com/> For the last eight years, the Capitol Hill community has engaged in community outreach, organizing, and planning to create a vision for the Melrose Promenade, improvements to a mile long stretch of Melrose Avenue to make space for pedestrians, bikes and other people space. SDOT secured a \$3 million grant to design and build the Melrose Promenade.

LID I5

<https://lidi5.org/> LID I5 is a community campaign to build a lid over I5 that will create new land for parks, affordable housing and other community facilities. It will relink Seattle's densest neighborhoods (Capitol Hill and First Hill) with downtown. An initial feasibility study will commence in 2018.

THE PROMISE OF SEATTLE'S BOULEVARDS, NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS (2016)

<http://seattlegreenways.org/wp-content/uploads/2016PromiseofSeattleBoulevardsSNGReportpages1to13.pdf> The Promise of Seattle Boulevards 2016 is looking at the best use of current boulevards and help to determine how they can function equitably as both parks and transportation for all. The history of Seattle's boulevard system is closely tied to the Olmsted legacy, which left Seattle with a promise of a citywide system of linear landscapes. The idea of connecting people to the remarkably beautiful landscapes and vistas of Seattle

predates the Olmsted Plan, and continues to this day as we evolve to meet the open space needs of future generations, preserving, and maintaining design intent, while connecting people to places.

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE STRATEGY (ROSS), UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON GREEN FUTURES LAB (2015)

<http://regionalopenspacestrategy.org/> ROSS is a collaborative research and planning effort led by the UW Green Futures Lab. Over five years, collaborators created a preliminary vision for a multi-jurisdictional and multi-objective regional open space system. Collaborative effort to integrate and elevate the many activities underway to conserve and enhance the ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic vitality of the Central Puget Sound region.

BALLARD OPEN SPACE PLAN, GROUNDSWELL NW (2014)

<http://www.groundswellnw.org/bosp> Ballard Open Space Plan Update (BOSP) will be a tool that can improve the quality of life in Ballard for generations to come. The plan reassessed the open space needs of the overall Ballard District, and revisited sites identified in the 1996 plan. Open space is defined to include more than just parks and trails. Open space also includes rights-of-way, public art, natural areas, spaces for events and festivals, and green infrastructure. The community identified over 400 site specific open space projects within the study area.

SOUTH PARK GREEN SPACE VISION PLAN, SEATTLE PARKS FOUNDATION, AND PARTNERS (2014)

<https://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/project/south-park-green-spaces/> The South Park Green Space Vision Plan contains community-generated recommendations to create a network of healthy, connected public spaces in South Park, including parks, trails, greenways, sidewalks, and community gathering spaces. It takes stock of the existing public spaces, examines their quality, identifies gaps between sites, and explores opportunities both for future parklands, open spaces, and a comprehensive network of walking and bicycling facilities to connect them.

CITY HABITATS CAMPAIGN, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, WA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL (ONGOING)

<http://www.cityhabitats.org/> City Habitats is composed of organizations and individuals choosing to re-imagine Puget Sound's cities and towns as part of nature. Our mission is to create a movement to bring communities together to turn the tide on one of the most pressing environmental issues we face, an issue that is intricately linked to quality of life in this region: polluted runoff. City Habitats provides materials to teach about polluted runoff and implement school and community-based, green infrastructure solutions. A central portal tallies information on restoration efforts of all the partners in the region.

NW SEATTLE COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECT, GROUNDSWELL NW (ONGOING)

Groundswell NW has joined the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to sponsor NW Seattle as an active Community Wildlife Habitat with the intent of getting community certification. This program promotes habitat in backyards and patio/deck space that can provide food, water, and shelter for our local wildlife.

PUGET SOUND SHORELINE STRATEGY, TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND (2013 UPDATE)

This update of the Puget Sound Shoreline Strategy presents new data, analysis, and maps representing The Trust for Public Land's (TPL) continued vision for a healthy and thriving Puget Sound. TPL's GIS analysis of the shoreline in King County shows that only 23 percent is public, and only 5 percent of the population is within the half-mile walking distance. TPL hopes the report will inspire and inform renewed efforts to protect, preserve, and enhance this important and irreplaceable resource.

CLIMATE-SMART CITIES PROGRAM, TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND (ONGOING)

Trust for Public Land's Climate-Smart Cities program helps cities nationwide create parks and conserve land to meet the climate challenge. TPL helps cities use parks and natural lands as "green infrastructure" serving four objectives:

- **Connect:** Trails and transit lines provide carbon-free transportation and link residents to popular destinations and each other.
- **Cool:** Shady green spaces reduce the urban "heat island" effect, protect people from heat waves, and reduce summer energy use.
- **Absorb:** Water-smart parks, playgrounds, and green alleys absorb rainfall, reduce flooding, and recharge drinking water supplies while saving energy for water management.
- **Protect:** Shoreline parks and natural lands buffer cities from rising seas, coastal storms, and flooding. TPL has a GIS assessment tool to help cities identify sites that can provide multiple benefits.

OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT TOOL (OSAT), TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Trust for Public Land has created a GIS tool using nationally available data to help quantify the benefits of potential land acquisitions to meet goals for open space and ecological services.

PARKSCORE / PARKSERVE (TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND)

The Trust for Public Land's ParkScore® tool [<http://parkscore.tpl.org>] measures how well the 100 largest U.S. cities are meeting the need for parks. In 2018 Seattle ranked 11 out of 100 cities. Seattle was strongest in the area of investment (40 out of 40 points) and access (37 out of 40 points). Seattle scored lower in the area of acreage (17 out of 40 points) and amenities (23 out of 40 points). ParkScore also identifies which neighborhoods and demographics are underserved by parks and how many people can reach a park within a ten-minute walk. A second tool, ParkServe® [<https://parkserve.tpl.org/>], measures and analyzes current access to parks in cities, towns, and communities nationwide.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT TOOL (THE NATURE CONSERVANCY)

The Nature Conservancy is working with partners to create a green infrastructure assessment tool to be available in 2018.

CORPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS

- EarthCorps: A year-long youth conservation corps program that includes AmeriCorps and international participants from countries around the world
- Rainier Valley Corps: Recruit, train, mentor, and support 10 emerging leaders from diverse communities of color and place in people of color-led community-based organizations to develop the organizations' capacity.
- Seattle AmeriCorps Collaborative: A network of current and former AmeriCorps members who identify ways to support each other and the AmeriCorps mission.
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC): A full-time, residential, team-based program for young adults, age 18-24. In 2014 they helped build the Danny Woo Community Garden.
- City Hall AmeriCorps VISTA Program/Cities of Service: Worked with Department of Neighborhoods to engage community members in revitalizing their neighborhoods one block at a time by supporting Find It, Fix It Community Walks, and Community Project Grants.
- City Year Seattle: Places AmeriCorps members in high-need schools to provide one-on-one tutoring, additional support for teachers, and coordination for programs and activities that benefit the whole school. In Seattle, 67 corps members worked at six elementary or middle schools.
- Nature Consortium, Urban Forest Restoration Program Internship: Supports volunteer-based forest restoration in the West Duwamish Greenbelt.

Public Comments

In all of our community outreach, the public gives us feedback about their hopes and concerns about public space. This section summarizes the themes we've heard most often in recent years.

What we've heard: A summary of community comments on public open space

Every year, City staff are out in the community for hundreds of public meetings. Through these conversations, we often hear suggestions and frustrations about public space in Seattle. This section of the report summarizes what we've heard in recent years, both general issues and neighborhood specific issues. This section focuses on major recurring themes we've heard from the public. A more detailed list of comments from Seattle 2035 is in an appendix. Public comments are organized as follows:

- Themes from underrepresented communities
- Citywide Themes

Comments from several planning and community engagement processes are summarized:

- Seattle 2035, the update for Seattle Comprehensive Plan (2014-2016)
- Parks and Open Space Plan (2017)
- Mandatory Housing and Affordability (2016-2018)
- Various community planning projects

Themes from underrepresented communities:

The City's outreach includes engagement with communities of color and other underrepresented groups. These communities have historically not been included as often or as thoroughly in planning processes. Due to past racially discriminatory policies like redlining and disinvestment, these communities often lack the resources and the opportunities that Seattle's predominantly white, more affluent neighborhoods enjoy.

Many of the concerns and priorities we hear in underrepresented communities are the same as what we hear in Seattle as a whole: people want pleasant places for walking and biking, parks should be cared for and maintained, and people want to be able to walk from their homes to nearby open spaces. However, some issues differ. This section focuses on those priorities that come up more frequently in underrepresented communities.

The themes here are drawn from engagement with the Central District, El Centro de la Raza, South Seattle Crime Prevention Council, Georgetown Community Council, Puget Sound Sage, the Filipino Community Center, and Seattle Housing Authority's New Holly development.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE IS AN ANCHOR FOR COMMUNITY

- **Outdoor public space is crucial for sustaining a sense of belonging.** Places where people can socialize and hold events help grow community relationships. Where possible, public spaces should coordinate with community centers.
- **Public spaces shouldn't be rented out for events,** to the extent that it impedes use by the broader public.
- **More free programming is needed,** especially for youth after school.

NEW INVESTMENTS SHOULD INCREASE EQUITY AND ACCESS

- **Public space decisions should explicitly address historic inequities.** Communities of color are most impacted by environmental problems, so they should have a leading role in thinking about solutions.
- **Focus on quality, equity, and access.** As the City develops new goals and long-range plans for parks and open space, the priority should be providing high-quality spaces to serve people with fewer resources.
- **Recreation opportunities are especially important near affordable housing.** Residents in affordable housing often have less access to transportation, and may have to work multiple jobs. Walkable access to open space is very important.
- **Public open space in industrial areas is important too.** The City doesn't invest in parks and open space in industrial areas, but these are the areas with the smallest tree canopy and the greatest pollution problems. How to get more trees and open space in these underserved areas?

SAFETY IS CRITICAL

- **Families need safe routes to walk and bike to public space.** This is especially true in neighborhoods with heavier traffic.
- **Public spaces should be managed for safety.** Safety is not just about access to the public spaces, it's also about managing what happens in the public spaces. Programming for positive activity will help push out negative activity, and make spaces more usable for the community.

KEY FINDINGS FROM COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENT AGENDA

Additional feedback was drawn from the outreach work by the Office of Sustainability and Environment for the Equity and Environment Initiative, and the Environmental Justice Committee (EJC). One area of focus is developing principles of public space for communities of color, and creating a public space at a cultural community center.

- **Environmental work should increase community power**, collaboration, and connectivity to government and mainstream environmental organizations.
- **There is historic distrust in communities.** Working with (not for) community is critical moving forward.
- **The City needs a strong framework** for advancing environmental justice.
- **Concerns about environmental burdens** such as indoor and outdoor air quality, toxics exposure, walkability, food insecurity, park safety, and transit service and how these intersect with racial injustice and challenges of economic and social conditions.
- **Environmental programs can and should support jobs**, small businesses, and youth development
- **Underutilized expertise and interest** in communities to design programs for everyone, deliver multiple benefits, and address community priorities
- **The stories and experiences** of communities of color must lead to Seattle's environmental work
- **Need for more community gathering space**, greenspace, places to grow more culturally appropriate food, and places to play, learn and worship.

Citywide themes:

Certain themes come up throughout Seattle. While people have a range of opinions about specific improvements they support or oppose in their own neighborhoods, the points below are near universal:

PUBLIC SPACE IS IMPORTANT...

- **Public space is essential to livability of a growing city** – it provides social, recreational, and environmental benefits to neighborhoods.
- **People want more parks, public spaces, and trees** throughout Seattle, and recognize the need to preserve and improve existing spaces.
- **Reduce health disparities through investment in public space**, especially for marginalized populations, seniors, and children. Focus on equity, access, and distribution of parks and facilities.

...AND SO ARE CONNECTIONS

- **Better and safer connections to public space** via sidewalks, greenways, trails, and transit would help more people access the benefits from existing parks.
- **Access and walkability are important.** People want to be within a 10-minute walk of public space, ideally with access to nature, socializing, and physical activity.

PROVIDE NEW PLACES TO SUPPORT A GROWING CITY

- **Prioritize areas for new public space** according to need, including those areas that are already dense and underserved, neighborhoods with rapid growth, and neighborhoods with underserved communities.
- **Where land for new parks is limited, use other strategies** to create more greenery, light, air, and outdoor social space. Possible strategies include building setbacks, wider sidewalks, small parks and plazas, rooftop patios, and street trees.
- **Private development should contribute to open space**, through fees, on-site open space, or other means.
- **Trees, rain gardens, green roofs, and other green infrastructure provide valuable benefits**, and we should find more ways to incorporate them throughout Seattle.
- **Mixed feelings about public space in the right-of-way**; many love adding pedestrian, bicycle, and public space improvements in the right of way, others oppose changes that could impact driving and parking cars.

THE CITY NEEDS CLEAR GOALS AND POLICIES

- **The City should have clear, measurable goals** for tree canopy and parkland.
- **Provide greater clarity about surplus properties**. What are the City's priorities when public land is up for grabs? How do parks and public space compare to other uses?
- **Make better use of underused places** like WSDOT freeway right-of-way, wide shoulders of industrial streets, awkward "leftover" spaces, etc.
- **Departments, agencies, and community groups should work together** more often to acquire, improve, maintain, and program public open space – leveraging limited resources to get more public space.

Case Studies

When City departments work together and with community groups, we can do more to expand public space. These case studies illustrate the potential of working together, but also the barriers that come up.

Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel (2003-2009)

WHAT IS IT?

This 2.7-acre open space in Seattle's Northgate neighborhood features a constructed wetland channel that treats runoff from 680 surrounding acres. Carved out of an abandoned parking lot, the channel cleans stormwater before discharging it to Thornton Creek. It also provides meandering paths with bridges, seating, and viewing areas. This amenity provides an attractive front door to a high density residential development, and serves as a recreational amenity for the surrounding community. It also raises awareness about water quality and creek health.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Seattle Public Utilities, private developer, design consultants, SDOT

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- Political expectations and aesthetic preferences from the developer sometimes took priority over optimal stormwater management; however, the broader perspective resulted in a more attractive project that works better as open space.
- It was difficult to design and construct an intensive stormwater facility and natural area so closely with a separate private development. As the housing development continued to evolve, it forced repeated amendments to the open space and stormwater facility.



Thornton Creek
Credit: Thorntonplaceliving.com

WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- The City and private developer shared the same contractor team. This allowed better coordination between the housing development and the open space – for example, excavation and grading was all part of one job.
- Because of the political commitment to a creek-like facility, aesthetics and amenity value remained important parts of the design, even where there were some conflicts with engineering performance.
- Seattle Public Utilities' Operations and Maintenance crew was heavily involved in the design process. This ensured good maintenance access for long-term success.

www.svrdesign.com/thornton-creek-water-quality-channel/



Thornton Creek
Credit: MIG | SvR

Activation of Downtown Parks (started 2016)



Occidental Square Chess Match

WHAT IS IT?

The Urban Parks Activation Partnership is a public-private collaboration to support events and activities in key downtown parks. Using lessons learned from Bryant Park in New York City, this effort has brought games, activities, and programming to Westlake Park and Occidental Square. By keeping the parks humming with activities that appeal to a broad range of people, this strategy maximizes use of the spaces and has helped reduce the crime and antisocial behavior that dominated these parks in the past. Offerings include ping-pong, oversized chess, play equipment, concerts, dancing, foosball, food trucks, and reading materials. Following the initial success of this partnership, the City is beginning to support activation in other downtown parks.

The effort started small in 2005, but when drug dealing and aggressive behavior came to a head around 2014, it became clear that a bigger effort was needed. Out of the \$540K annual budget for this program, SPR pays \$125K. The rest comes from the Metropolitan Improvement District and other private sources. Downtown Seattle Association and SPR both have staff dedicated to supporting the events and programming.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Downtown Seattle Association, Metropolitan Improvement District, SPR, Alliance for Pioneer Square, and Seattle Parks Foundation.

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- From 2005-2014, problem behaviors steadily increased in these parks: urination, defecation, harassment of passersby, and an open-air drug market.
- First amendment concerns and liability concerns both required a careful, deliberate approach.
- Initially, social services advocates were concerned that homeless people would be displaced. The result has been positive though – more people around makes the spaces safer, and homeless people also enjoy the new amenities and programs.
- To honor labor agreements, the maintenance of these spaces is handled by SPR. Crews are already stretched thin, and the higher level of activity in these parks means more maintenance needs.



WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- The density and frequency of activities invites the steady flow of passersby to stop and spend time in the parks.
- Dedicated staffing: SPR has two employees that manage the contract and deal with maintenance issues. Downtown Seattle Association has purchased additional maintenance from parks, as well as a part-time coordinator. Now that the partners are expanding to smaller downtown parks, they're finding the staffing needs are much greater – higher need for planning, concierges, managing events...
- Improvements to Westlake Park were timed to coincide with a massive law enforcement effort on 3rd Ave ("The 9½ block strategy"). This concentrated crackdown on drug activity, together with the new programming, helped push undesirable behavior out of the park.
- Volunteer Community Police team. Very effective and dedicated. Coordination with SPD.

HOW COULD THIS BE APPLIED IN NEIGHBORHOODS AT A SMALLER SCALE?

- Look into Project Belltown. Could be a model that works but is less expensive. New volunteer coordination supervisor (Adrian Caver-Hall)
- Develop an ambassador program (volunteers in parks). To be successful, this would need total clarity about roles, safety, expectations, liability.
- How to help groups of people "own" a park, with the City as a fiscal sponsor? Food trucks, vendors, other revenue-generating activities would help make this work.
- Find groups that will take ownership. Partner by allowing events with fees or liability requirements. In parks that need activation, remove fee requirements, direct people/activities there.
- Develop new policies to encourage activation by local, abutting businesses.

www.downtownseattle.org/programs-and-services/parks-and-public-spaces



Occidental Square
Credit: Crosscut.com

Seattle Play Streets (2013-present)



WHAT IS IT?

The SDOT grants neighborhoods a free, simple permit that allows periodic street closure to host neighborhood events. Permits are good for six months, and can be used for up to three events per week. Communities have used play streets to do arts and crafts, bike races, games, and other fun activities. These events give kids a chance to be social and physically active close to home, while encouraging adult neighbors to get out and talk to each other. They also serve as a clear, helpful reminder that streets are for people! From 2013 to early 2017, over 200 play streets have been permitted throughout Seattle.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

SDOT, neighborhood groups

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- Planners had to develop a low-tech, consistent, and effective approach for blocking streets to traffic. They worked with the City's traffic engineers to develop standards for simple barricades made from trash cans with and signage from the City.
- Applications for play street permits have tended to come from affluent, mostly white neighborhoods. The program has not been used as widely in neighborhoods by communities of color. In 2017, SDOT plans more active outreach to promote widespread use of the program in a more equitable manner.

WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- Parents feel more comfortable letting kids play in the street close to home than they are letting them go to a nearby park on their own.
- The permitting process is free and very simple; one page application. No indemnification or proof of insurance required for the applicant. This program is free for the community, and administering it is very low cost for the City.
- By its nature this program is very open-ended, so participants can customize the activities for their neighborhood.
- This program gives kids more opportunities to play outside, and helps adults interact and make friends with neighbors.

www.seattle.gov/transportation/playstreets

Green Schoolyards: Chicago's “Space to Grow” program (2013-2020)

WHAT IS IT?

A partnership between Chicago Public Schools, Chicago’s water utilities, and non-profit partners to retrofit 34 schoolyards by 2020. With the beliefs that healthy students are better learners and that smart use of public land can improve local water quality, partners are committing \$1.5 million per school to install landscaping, recreation facilities, and play equipment while removing impervious surfaces.

Open Lands and Healthy Schoolyards are two non-profit organizations, mostly funded through philanthropy, that help broaden the impacts of these improvements. They provide professional development and curriculum support for schools on topics including around water quality, garden management, nutrition, and the importance of outdoor physical activity.

The “Space to Grow” initiative also has the broader mission of inviting the surrounding communities to participate in and benefit from the improved school yards. They host community events to maintain the spaces and invite neighbors in for classes and activities. The program is improving schoolyards throughout Chicago, but focusing on communities of color in neighborhoods underserved in terms of public open space.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Chicago Public Schools, Chicago Department of Water Management, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Openlands, and the Healthy Schools Campaign.



Grissom Elementary
Credit: www.spacetogrowchicago.org

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- Developing agreements between the parties took time, making sure that everyone is paying their fair share but not too much, while leaving flexibility to address cost overruns, etc. It also took time to spell out what types of improvements each party was willing and able to pay for – the approach needed to be clear and consistent.
- Maintenance of native landscaping and green stormwater infrastructure adds complexity. Staff and contractors need proper training. Chicago Public Schools owns the projects and are responsible for maintenance for at least five years.
- Several of the schools are in communities affected by gun violence, which makes it harder for people to feel safe outside. Also, the schoolyards are fenced and historically have been locked, so neighbors aren't accustomed to thinking about them as public space.

WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- Project planners are very careful to tailor the improvements to each community – this makes for a slower process, but is critical to success. Through a 3-month planning process, schools nominate representatives for teachers, students, parents, and administrators. Workshops bring new design ideas and bring the groups toward consensus, with clear documentation of the processes.
- To bring in people from the surrounding community and encourage “positive loitering,” parent groups organized walking clubs, garden clubs, and other activities on the renovated school grounds.

www.healthyschoolscampaign.org/programs/chicago/space-to-grow

High Point (2004-2017)

WHAT IS IT?

High Point is a 120-acre, mixed-income community in West Seattle, which will include 1,700 units of housing at completion. Along with a range of affordable and market-rate units, the neighborhood includes more than 20 acres of parks, open spaces, and playgrounds, with excellent pedestrian connections throughout. It also emphasizes green infrastructure: it's preserved 100 mature trees, tripled the overall number of trees, and added extensive rain gardens and swales to beautify the neighborhood and manage stormwater runoff, protecting nearby Longfellow Creek. This expansion of open space and green infrastructure was accomplished at the same time redevelopment more than doubled the density in the neighborhood.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

Seattle Housing Authority, Seattle Public Utilities, Office of Housing, SDOT, SPR, design consultants, private developers

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- Most the project design didn't meet the City's standard plans and codes – because it pushed the envelope on many fronts, the designers and City planners had to work through many variance processes, including variances for sidewalk locations (to protect trees), stormwater facilities, placement of underground utilities (to allow infiltration swales), street width, and more.
- Protecting trees surrounded in the midst of major redevelopment requires constant vigilance. In spite of careful protection barriers and detailed communication with contractors, workers installing underground utilities destroyed the roots of several protected trees.



High Point
Credit: Mithun

WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- Commitment from many agencies at both Director and staff levels. “Everyone was hellbent that it was going to work,” says lead design consultant Peg Staeheli. That commitment helped avoid the trap of “what’s feasible” from designers, reviewers, and funding partners, redirecting people to, “how can we figure this out?”
- Equitable distribution of affordable housing and open space improvements throughout the neighborhood - good planning with the input of SHA residents led to a design where the public space benefits are equally shared.
- High Point’s open spaces vary considerably in size and program, and they are connected by a great walking environment. Every block is a little different, which makes the neighborhood more interesting to walk around in.
- The neighborhood was designed with minimal private open space but abundant shared open space. This draws people to the parks and makes them active, social spaces.
- Because project managers deviated from standard plans, they had to focus on the core intent behind the standards to come up with alternatives. In many cases, the solutions developed for High Point became new standards for stormwater management and right-of-way improvements.
- Ongoing follow-through from SHA field people on implementation. Committed consultant team, volunteering to train future staff.

www.seattlehousing.org/redevelopment/high-point/

Bell Street Park Boulevard (2004-2017)

WHAT IS IT?

Bell Street Park Boulevard is a 4-block long open space in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. Replacing a street known for broken sidewalks and drug-dealing, the park boulevard narrowed the roadway, raised the road to be level with the sidewalks, and added generous landscaping and seating areas.

Prior to this project, Belltown had been a long-time priority for park acquisition – in spite of a dense and growing residential population, the neighborhood had few parks. After years of looking for suitable and affordable land, SPR, SDOT, and community groups decided to explore opportunities in the right-of-way, presented by a utilities project that required excavation. When putting the street back together, why not do it a different way that provides multiple benefits in an urban public space?

An interdepartmental team collaborated to build up resources and enthusiasm for this partnership. To complement physical improvements to the street, SPR and the community started programming the space with regular festivals and community events. Today, it is a lively and welcoming asset to the neighborhood.

WHO WAS INVOLVED?

SDOT, SPR, Belltown residents, Downtown Seattle Association, design consultants



Bell Street Boulevard
Credit: MIG | SvR

WHAT CHALLENGES CAME UP?

- Balancing the competing needs on a downtown street. In particular, King County Metro buses and the Seattle Fire Department presented technical considerations that needed to be addressed.
- Because many aspects of the street design were unusual, permitting and engineering review were difficult. Getting any “atypical” project through approvals is hard – before doing this again on another street, all reviewing agencies would need to make upfront commitments to work together.
- Rights-of-way often have extensive underground utilities that constrain design – Bell Street is no exception. A large sewer line below the roadway constrained the design options.
- In the enthusiasm to move forward with a collaborative project, departments underestimated the actual cost of the improvements. Repeated asks for more funding after the initial approval met skepticism at the Parks Board and City Council.
- Because this is an unusual use of the right-of-way, many parts of the street improvements didn’t align with standard plans. The permitting process proved to be very expensive for SPR.
- While it’s a great street, the improved area doesn’t fully serve the function of a park – this makes SPR hesitant to invest as heavily in similar projects in the future.
- Neighbors had concerns about the project. Many worried that making more space to sit and hang out would encourage more drug and gang activity, which were already problems in the neighborhood.

WHAT MADE IT SUCCESSFUL?

- A good design and the use of high quality materials with inviting seating went a long way toward making this project work.
- The surrounding retail, services, night life, and residential density all contributed to “positive loitering” and helped discourage problem behaviors.
- Doing an unusual kind of project helped create collaborative enthusiasm, with strong political support from elected officials. Departments worked through problems together, and brought in deep involvement from community groups including the Downtown Seattle Association and the Building Owners and Managers Association.

www.seattlehousing.org/redevelopment/high-point/

Previous Plans

Previous efforts have taken a comprehensive look at public space in Seattle, and helped shape the system we have today. But not all recommendations have been realized.

Previous Plans

Early 20th Century

Inspired by the “city beautiful” movement of the early 1900’s, Seattle engaged the Olmsted Brothers to create a plan for the future expansion of the park system. Advocates believed a more beautiful city would tame the chaos, inspire civic pride, lift the working class, and strengthen a sense of community. The resulting 1903 plan, A Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways, guided the development of an expanded park system. It drew inspiration from both the built and natural environment and built upon previous park and circulation proposals.

The Olmsted Plan included a 20-mile system of existing and proposed parks from Lake Washington to Elliott Bay linked together by boulevards. Later, the Olmsted Brothers expanded the original plan to include areas in Southeast and North Seattle. The Olmsted plan took advantage of the surrounding environment and topography to provide an integrated plan for open space throughout the city.

Their concept of open space didn’t just include parks and playgrounds, but also included linear open space–landscaped boulevards with large shade trees and pedestrian pathways. Thinking of the plan as an integrated system, the Olmsted Brothers designed the boulevards with just as much thought and detail as the proposed parks. Although Olmsted’s primary goal was to locate a park or a playground within one half mile of every home in Seattle, the dominant feature of the plan was a 20-mile landscaped boulevard linking most of the existing and planned parks and greenbelts within the city limits.

Olmsted Brothers continued their work in Seattle developing designs for 37 parks based on Olmsted’s vision in the 1903 plan:

- Borrowed Views - parks and boulevards located to take advantage of views of water, mountains, and woodlands.
- Accessible Parks and Playgrounds - small parks and playgrounds, oriented toward young children and women with babies, within a half a mile of every home.
- Connected System - a 20-mile landscaped boulevard, incorporating an existing system of bicycle pathways, linking the existing and planned parks and greenbelts.

“In designing a system of parks and parkways the primary aim should be to secure and preserve for the use of the people as much as possible of these advantages of water and mountain views and of woodlands, well distributed and conveniently located.”

- John Charles Olmsted, A Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkway, November 16, 1903

Mid to Late 20th Century

By mid-century the City began using more opportunistic and inventive strategies to grow the park system:

- Agreeing to establish joint use facilities with the school district (1950s);
- Passing voter-approved property tax levies to fund land acquisition and capital projects (1968 Forward Thrust, 2000 Pro Parks, 2008 Parks and Greenspace);
- Acquiring surplus federal military lands (Discovery and Magnusson Parks);
- Reclaiming a brownfield (Gasworks Park 1976);
- Building a park lid over I-5 (Freeway Park 1977)

This period also saw the defeat of the Seattle Commons, an ambitious plan to create a central park linking downtown and Lake Union. Voters twice rejected the plan.

21st Century

More recently the City has struggled to improve and maintain the parks system. Although the City and others drafted plans to expand and improve parks and public space, many plans have not attracted support or been implemented. The most successful recent plans include:

- Parks Legacy Plan paired detailed analysis and extensive public engagement to develop support for the Seattle Metropolitan Parks District. Approved by voters in 2014, Seattle Metropolitan Park District provides critical funding for the continued long-term maintenance of parks and the development of new neighborhood parks on previously acquired land. Resources to acquire new lands are very limited (\$2 million/year from Seattle Parks District). Other challenges include the high cost and limited availability of land within the city limits.
- Waterfront Seattle Framework Plan established a vision for the future of Seattle's Central waterfront. It summarized conceptual ideas put forth during the 21-month-long planning and design phase for the Central Waterfront Project.

Significant planning efforts are summarized in the following section.



A Comprehensive System of Parks and Parkways (Olmsted Plan), 1903

PURPOSE:

The Olmsted Brothers were asked to create a plan to guide future acquisition and development of Seattle's park system.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Lead- City of Seattle, Board of Park Commissioners
- Consultants – Olmsted Brothers

KEY IDEAS:

- Link existing and proposed parks through a 20-mile **system of boulevards**, running from Lake Washington in southeast Seattle to Fort Lawton along the Elliott Bay. Many of the boulevards were repurposed from a network of bicycle trails.
- **Take advantage of the beautiful scenery** surrounding Seattle by acquiring those lands with the best views of the water and the distant mountains.
- Locate **small parks and playgrounds**, oriented toward young children and women with babies, within a half a mile of every home.
- **Forgo a “central park”** for the downtown. Given the city's boulevards, shoreline access, and spectacular views, the Olmsted Brothers felt that a central park was less urgent in Seattle than in other cities.

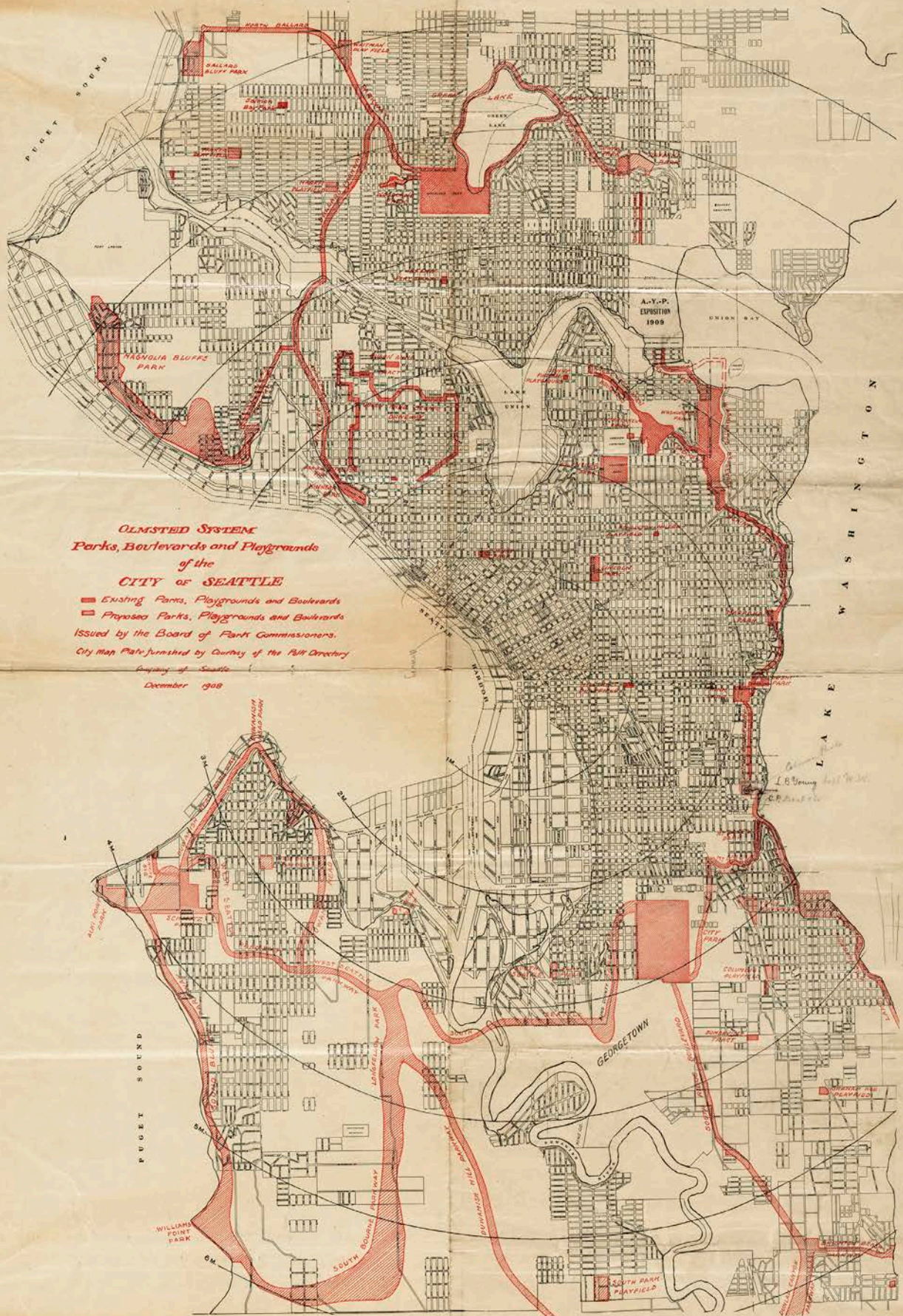
LESSONS LEARNED:

- Plan did not anticipate the ultimate density of downtown, and the need for a large central park.
- Plan did not anticipate the need to expand the park system as the city annexed adjacent areas.
- The plan did not address the already developed areas or the working shorelines of the city. Those communities have never enjoyed the same quality of open space as the neighborhoods that adjoin the Olmsted system of parks and boulevards.

For more information: <http://www.historylink.org/File/1124>)

“[Create] ground to which people may easily go after their day’s work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour seeing, hearing and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets.”

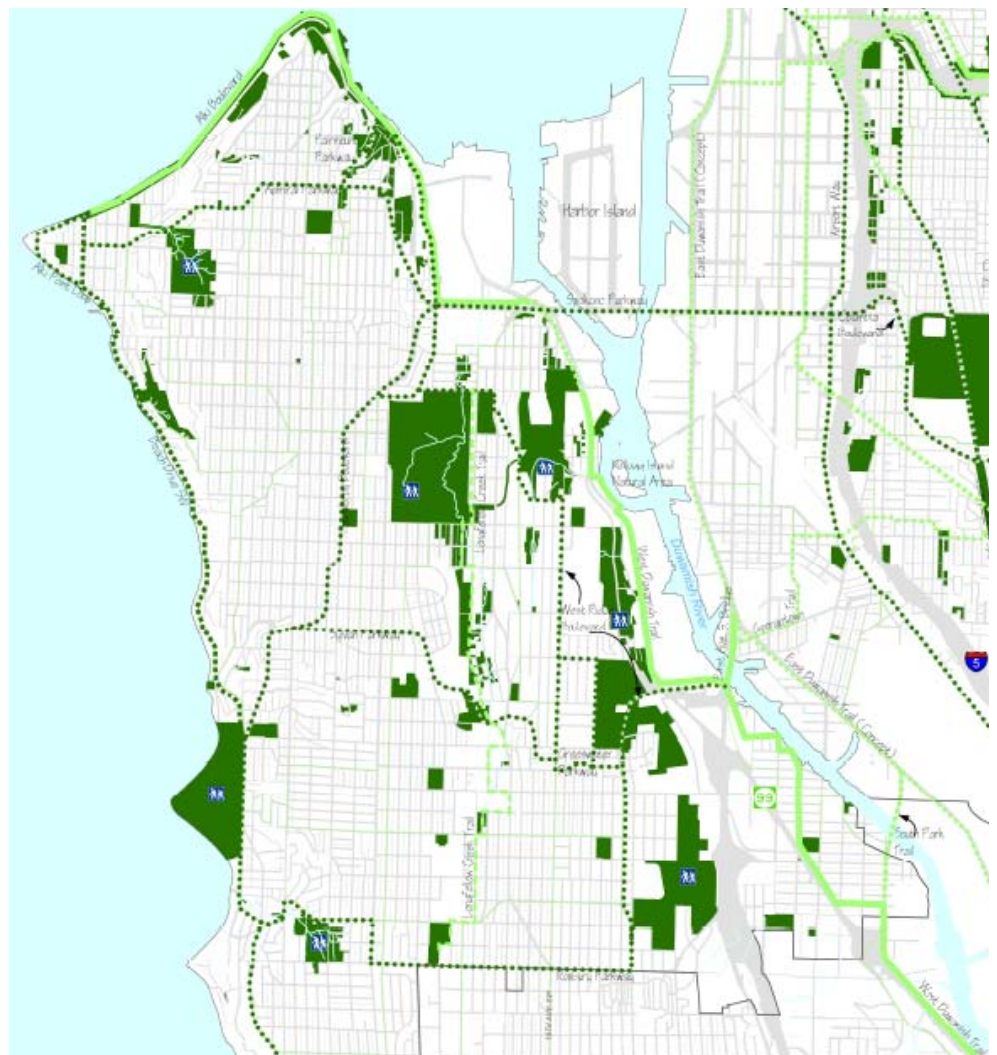
- Frederick Law Olmsted



Bands of Green, (1990, 2006, 2011)

PURPOSE:

In 1990, SPR Superintendent Holly Miller asked the Cedar River Group to create a preliminary plan for expanding Seattle's system of boulevards, trails, and linear parks as background for the Department's new Comprehensive Plan. The initial report included dozens of conceptual proposals for connecting Seattle's parks with new trails and expansion of the Olmsted boulevard system. Many ideas were included in future neighborhood plans, planning documents, and project lists for voter-approved bonds and levies. The Seattle Parks Foundation initiated updates to Bands of Green in 2006 and 2011. Although many of the original proposals have been implemented, the latest 2011 update focused on filling gaps and other enhancements.



WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Seattle Department of Parks (commissioned the 1990 plan)
- Seattle Parks Foundation (funded 2006, 2011 plans)
- Seattle Dept. of Transportation (funded the 2006 plan)
- Consultant – Cedar River Group

KEY IDEAS:

- Encourage **connections between public spaces to be greener** and park-like.
- Better define how to incorporate the **trail system** with major parks including Magnuson, Discovery, and Gasworks.
- Encourage **new types of connections** such as neighborhood greenways/bicycle boulevards.
- Support community groups who want to develop **neighborhood Bands of Green plans**.
- Memorandum of Understanding **between City and partners** to support Bands of Green.
- Work with the Port of Seattle to **improve the sections** of the Regional Trail Network on their property.
- **Fill gaps** in the regional trail network: Burke Gilman Trail, Interurban Trail, Cheshiahud Lake Union Loop, Ship Canal Trail, Interbay, Central Waterfront, Lake to Bay Trail, Alki / Duwamish Trail, Chief Sealth Trail, Lake Washington Blvd/ Arboretum.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Low awareness of plan with Parks staff and other implementers.
- People tend to confuse Bands of Green with the UW-led “Open Space Seattle 2100” plan.
- The latest generation of Neighborhood Greenways has been widely criticized for a lack of “green” - are those projects linked to the Bands of Green recommendations?

<https://www.seattleparksfoundation.org/publications/>

It may be necessary to invent new types of green connections to meet the needs of different types of park users and to fill gaps in the urban trail system.

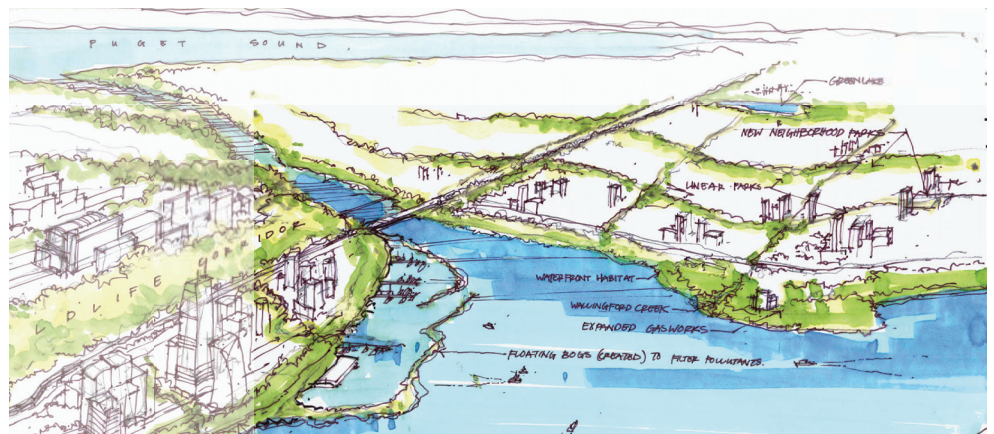
Open Space Seattle 2100, UW Green Futures Lab, 2006 (also referred to as 2100 Plan)

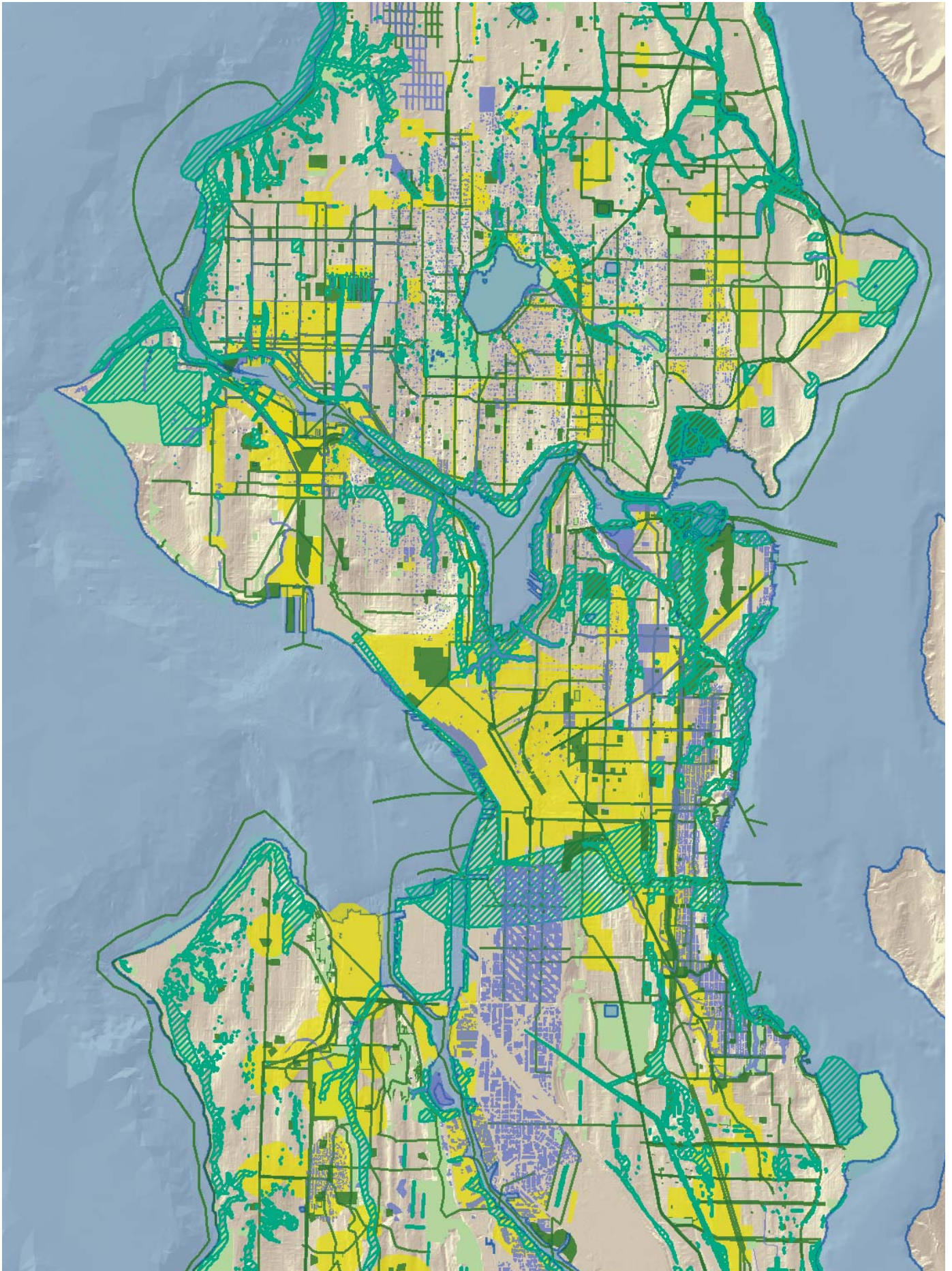
PURPOSE:

The goal of the project was to create a bold integrated open space plan with implementation strategies for Seattle's next 100 years. The proposed regenerative green infrastructure aimed enhance the health and well-being of both cultural and natural environments. The project included a year of study and preparation, and culminated in a two-day charrette that brought together 300 people—students and professionals in design and planning profession—to develop near-term and long-term visions. 23 teams were assigned to 18 geographic regions spanning the city. Guiding principles included: regional responsiveness, integration and multi-functional, equity and access, connectivity, quality, ecological function and restoration, habitat networks, health and safety, and feasibility.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Lead - Green Futures Lab, UW Department of Landscape Architecture
- Urban Land Institute
- City of Seattle City Council
- Benefactor - Alternative Foundation
- Patrons - American Society of Landscape Architects: Washington Chapter, GGLO, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks
- Supporters, Fellows, Executive Committee, Guidance Committee, and Specialist Committee composed of 110 other agencies and organizations
- 300 participants in 2-day charrette





KEY IDEAS:

- **Integrated Green Infrastructure**
 - Integrated and connected “green infrastructure”: bikeways, green freeways, natural drainage filtration, tree canopy.
 - Aggregation of open space to create connections and urban greenways; multi-functional open space; redefined transportation corridors.
- **Density and Community**
 - Plan for density and community by focusing urban development into urban nodes that contain civic space, local identity, walkable amenities, and abundant transit.
 - New urban villages with civic hearts; green roofs and walls; decentralized self-sufficiency.
- **Ecological Open Space**
 - Strive for ecological open space in both public and private realms that restores ecological function, promotes biodiversity, and reclaims hazard zones as greenbelts.
 - Understand the city as watersheds; respect for underlying conditions; re-establish historic streams; restore shorelines for habitat; recreate natural drainage to restore our waters; enhance greenbelts and habitat networks.
- **Access and Use**
 - Give every neighborhood and watershed access to a variety of open spaces and corridors that encourage walking, biking, exercise, and enjoyment of Seattle’s living environment.
 - Equality in accessibility; increased access to water; open space for education/schools for open space; hierarchy and variety of open space.
- **Recommendations for the City:**
 - Further develop the 100-year Green Infrastructure Plan, from the visions generated during the Green Futures Charrette and existing neighborhood plans, that spatially locates and integrates strategic green infrastructure investments.
 - Establish a 20-year, near-term implementation strategy.
 - Establish a Green Infrastructure Task Force.
 - Take the ideas in the Green Infrastructure Plan and to root them within City’s comprehensive planning, civic, design, and land use cultures.
 - Funding - make ecological open space a small portion of every project to create a system of green infrastructure.
 - Propose Green Infrastructure Levy that will fund all types of “Green Works,” creating a model of interdepartmental cooperation.



LESSONS LEARNED:

- Visions didn’t translate into implementable projects.
- Little buy-in from City agencies identified as the “implementer.”

<http://depts.washington.edu/open2100/>

https://issuu.com/gehlarchitects/docs/565_seattle_pspl/12

Blue Ring: 100-Year Open Space Strategy for Center City, 1999-2004



PURPOSE:

The Blue Ring Plan is a 100-year vision for a network of open spaces within the center city. The plan knitted together ideas from the individual neighborhood plans, and added connections between existing and planned civic destinations, parks, open space, and trails, waterfronts (South Lake Union and Elliott Bay) and the surrounding neighborhoods. This strategy provided a mechanism for coordinating many plans, private developments, and capital improvement projects in the center city, and to shape a coherent system of places into a healthy public realm.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Lead- City of Seattle, City Design, Dept. of Construction and Land Use
- Interdepartmental Team – Seattle Design Commission, Seattle Planning Commission, Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle Arts Commission, SPR, SDOT, Department of Design Construction and Land Use, SPU, Seattle Center, Seattle Police Department
- Community – relied on community desires expressed in neighborhood plans, but held large events to review work in progress
- Consultant Team – Mithun, Lorna Jordan Studio, Coughlin Porter Lundeen, Heartland





KEY IDEAS:

- Complement the Olmsted “green ring” with a downtown **“blue ring.”**
- **Connect center city** neighborhoods, major civic amenities, and open spaces.
- Establish a **hierarchy of streets**- corridors, connectors, and green streets.
- **Coordinate** open space investments and bonus open space with an overall plan.
- Utilize **water as a placemaker**, and illuminate the urban watershed.
- Capture important public **views**.
- Strengthen pedestrian **links** between the shorelines and upland areas.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- The name “Blue Ring” applied at the end of the process to provide a memorable name, but didn’t capture the full extent of the plan concepts.
- Anticipated the removal of the viaduct.
- Lidding I-5 has had sustained support from various groups. Laid the foundation for “green streets” and other specially designed streets.
- Recommendations from neighborhood plans were not sufficient—they endorsed isolated, not connected, open space.

Although funding and new land for parks may be limited, four types of existing assets could be used as building blocks for a Center City open space system: water, public parks, private plazas, and streets.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Embrace imagination

Capitalize on the opportunities existing in the public realm

Create an awareness of the relationship between the natural and built environments

Highlight Seattle's defining attributes and natural features in the pedestrian experience

Create public spaces for *all*

Use a pedestrian-first approach to provide desirable outdoor spaces that are within short walking distances for all types of users

Use an integrated approach that incorporates art, science, and landscape in the urban place-making process

Make sustainability a prime value: use sustainable methods and materials to build for the seventh generation

Provide a framework to guide public and private investment opportunities

Develop strategies that implement neighborhood plan recommendations



Downtown Parks Renaissance, 2006

PURPOSE:

A Task Force was charged with making recommendations to Mayor on strategies to revitalize and activate the City's downtown parks and open spaces. Recommendations encompassed five key areas: maintenance, safety and security, programming, events, and commercial activities; and funding for capital and operating improvements. The Task Force met 15 times over 10 months.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Task Force
 - Seattle Parks and Recreation
 - Downtown Seattle Association
 - Pike Place Market PDA
 - Seattle Parks Board
 - Town Hall
 - Metropolitan Improvement District
 - Mayor's Office
 - Elliot Bay Books
- Consultant: BERK

Cities across the country with successful downtown parks systems have recognized the catalytic role of parks in creating people-friendly livable downtowns, and are investing in significant maintenance, capital, security and programming resources in those spaces.

KEY IDEAS:

- **Vision**- an interconnected system of unique parks and public spaces that are well cared for and well-loved.
- **Typology for downtown parks**: destination parks, neighborhood parks, small public spaces, or beauty spots.
- **New Partnership between the City and the downtown community** for programming and events; community organizing and capacity-building; and fundraising and advocacy; and liaison with businesses.
- Implement a **coordinated, Citywide Action Plan** to improve downtown parks:
 - Create a downtown parks division.
 - Designate someone in Mayor's Office to coordinate across departments.
 - Implement a collaborative effort to provide human services assistance.
 - Address interdepartmental governance issues.
 - Integrate public and private open space with Parks to create a network.
 - Create a wayfinding system.
 - Develop a long-range downtown parks plan, and update the parks component the Comprehensive Plan for Downtown.
 - Amend Parks policies and procedures to includes park use and enjoyment.
 - Implement legislative changes that impede parks revitalization (panhandling, event fees, noise ordinance, concessions, and retail activity).
 - Improve security with Park Rangers, and supplemental support from and coordination with SPD, consider decorative fencing in selected parks.
 - Maintenance- major maintenance improvement program, coordinate across agencies.
- Develop a multi-year funding plan for operations and capital improvements using levies, impact fees, neighborhood matching funds, REE taxes, and public/private partnerships.

Downtown Public Space & Public Life, 2009

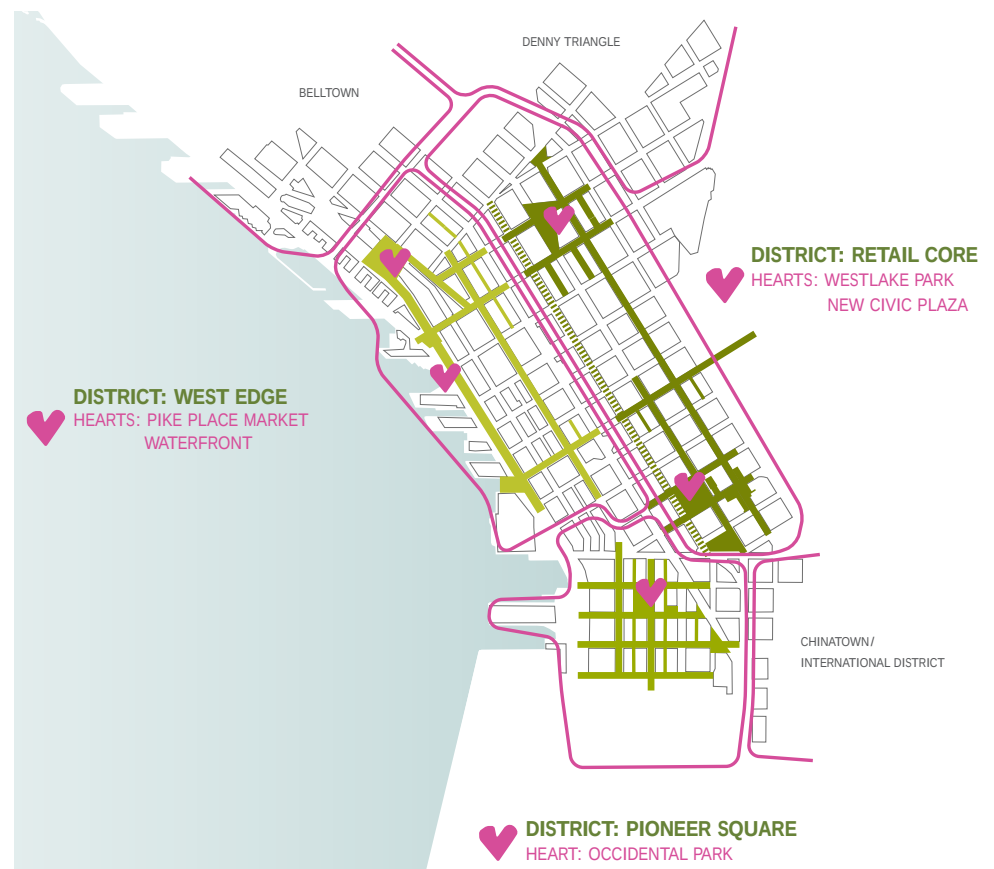
PURPOSE:

This document offers an introduction to a new way of recording and understanding the importance of public life in an urban context. Public life recordings are used as the basis for proposed strategies and reconfigurations of the space between the buildings and to prioritize people activities, which, in turn, make our streets and cities lively.

The team decided to focus on a specific area within Downtown Seattle and on three specific smaller areas; King Street Station, the intersection of Mercer Street and Aurora Avenue and parts of First Avenue. In a year-long process, Gehl Architects conducted analysis, recorded public life during winter and summer and illustrated overall recommendations for the identified areas.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- Client- City of Seattle SDOT and DPD
- Project Manager- International Sustainability Institute
- Consultant- Gehl Architects
- UW Faculty and Students, Dept. of Landscape Architecture



KEY IDEAS:

- **The sustainable downtown**
 - Strengthen physical/ visual connections to water.
 - Create a connected and coherent green network.
 - Encourage storm water filtration and recycling.
- **The unique downtown:**
 - Recognize three districts - Retail Core, West Edge Pioneer Square.
 - Establish a “heart” for each district- Westlake, Civic Plaza, Occidental.
 - Enhance character, network, and functions for each district.
- **The inviting downtown**
 - Implement a public space network that links public spaces, streets, and recreational sites.
 - Identify public spaces at three different levels: City scale, Neighborhood scale, Block scale.
- **The legible downtown**
 - Define a hierarchy of street types to reinforce distinct functions and character - Public Waterfront Promenade, Main Street (1st Ave), City Avenue, Green Connector, Central Transit Spine (3rd Ave).
- **The vibrant downtown**
 - Increase night time use of three areas: Waterfront, 3rd Avenue, Office core.
 - Establish a night time network.
 - Introduce more night time attractions.
 - Illustrate an annual events calendar.
- **The dynamic downtown**
 - Ensure a downtown that is a peer to other “premier” and innovative cities.
 - Strengthen downtown’s brand and build on public/private partnerships and business networks.
 - Involve the important players in further developing the city culture.
 - Encourage events and temporary elements.

A connected and coherent green network of parks, green belts, trails and street trees will make the Center City more attractive, provide access to nature, and improve ecological conditions.

Waterfront Seattle Framework Plan, 2012

PURPOSE:

Establish a vision for the future of Seattle's Central waterfront. This is not a legal or binding document, but a summary of conceptual ideas put forth during the Planning and Concept Design phases of the Central Waterfront Project. At the city scale, the framework aims to reconnect neighborhoods to the waterfront, increase mobility, and enhance open space along Elliott Bay.

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

- City of Seattle, SDOT and DPD
- Lead Consultant- Field Operations
- Central Waterfront Committee (53 members from public, private, and philanthropic sectors)
- Stakeholders (27 members from owners, neighborhoods, businesses, and downtown organizations)

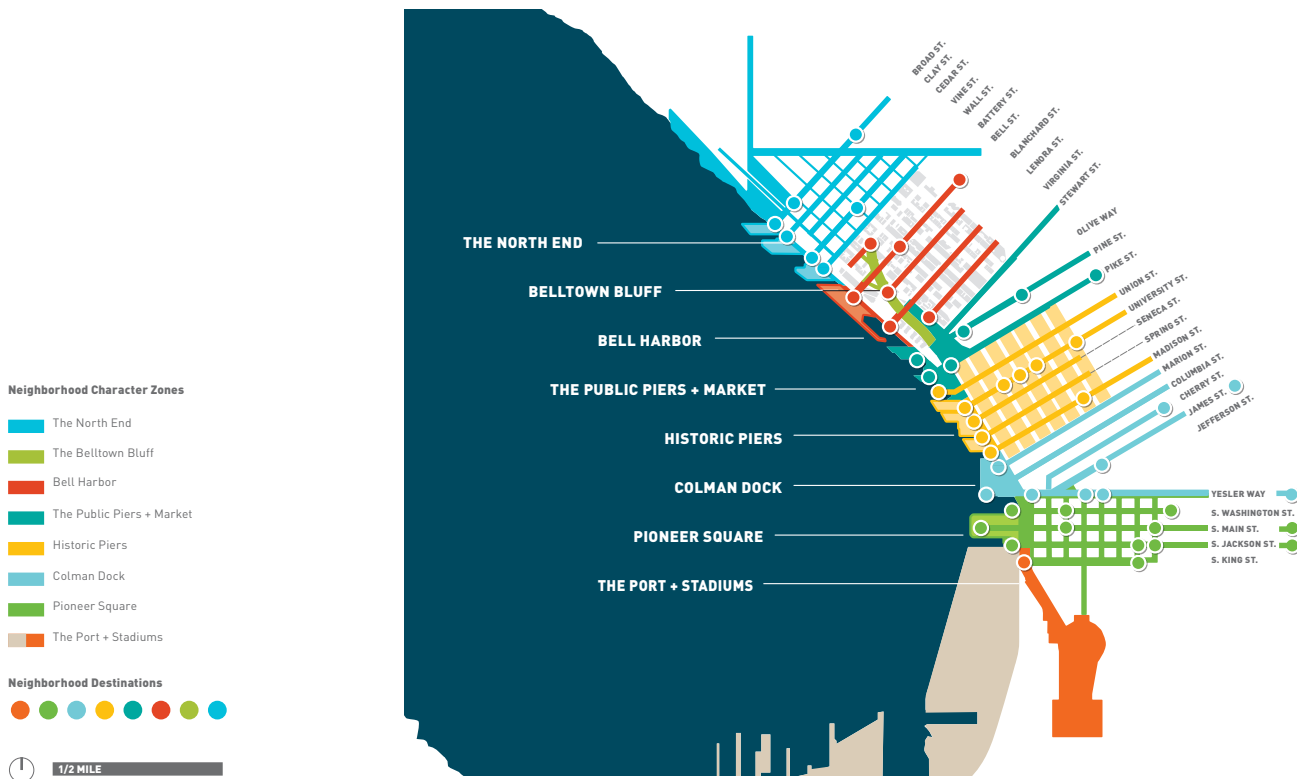
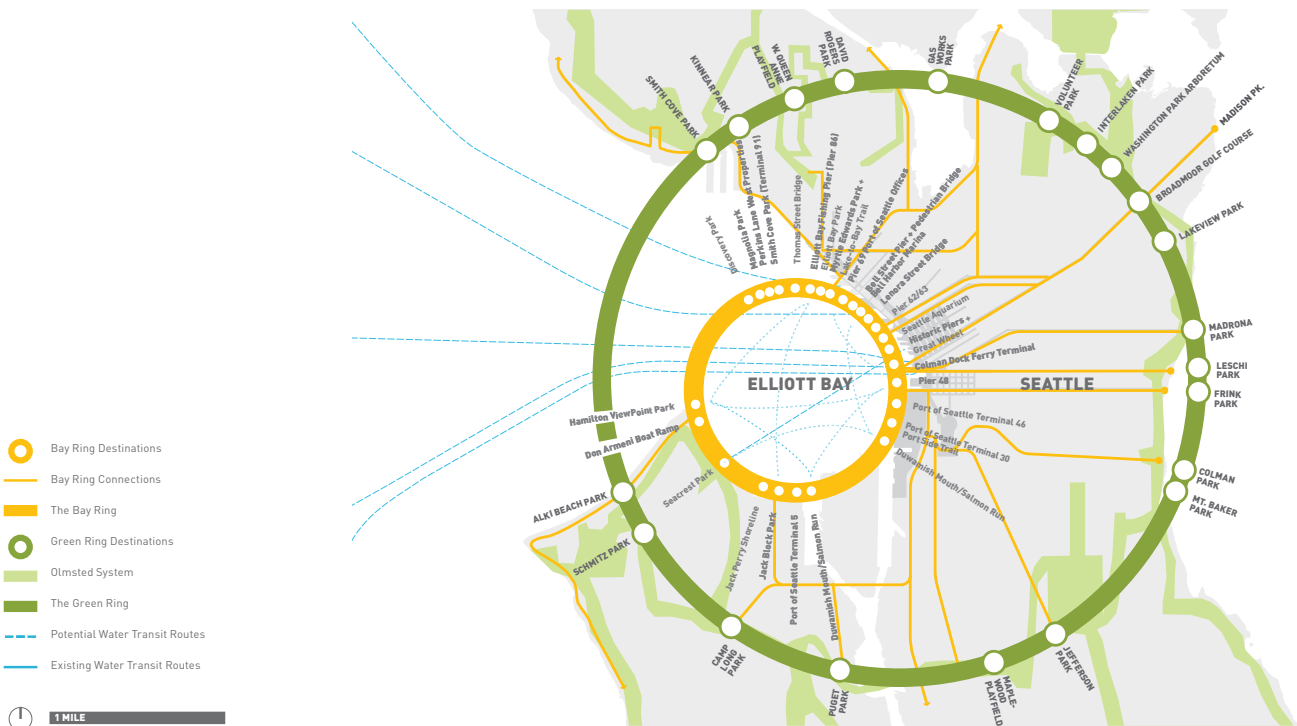
KEY CONCEPTS (AT THE CITY SCALE):

- Create a **ring of compelling destinations** and journeys along the water's edge (public art and habitat) along the Elliot Bay shoreline
- Identify, establish a **linear network of open spaces along the central waterfront**.
- The **waterfront as "front porch"** of the city.
- **Make the bay a "center"** around which people can share a sense of identity and orientation.
- Improve the **links** between the waterfront and the city.
- **Connect the Bay Ring (Waterfront) with the Green Ring** (Olmsted Parks and Boulevards, trails, and greenways located throughout Magnolia, Interbay, Uptown, Downtown, SoDo, and West Seattle).

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Allowing the committee to create the plan built very strong ownership that helped the project transition to new city leadership.
- Having a lead consultant with a strong point of view helped keep the community process moving forward.

Linking the Olmsted Brothers' System of Parks to the Bay Ring's waterfront destinations, the Framework Plan re-orientes the city's focus towards the water and creates new relationships with Elliott Bay. The city, its parks and waterfront are set into a new relationship - one where the waterfront becomes a focal point, front porch and heart of Seattle. It aims to be a "Waterfront for All".



Other Plans



BOGUE MASTER PLAN (1911)

Municipal Plans Commission, created in 1910, was charged with devising “plans for the arrangement of the city with a view to such expansion as may meet future demands” by September 30, 1911. The Commission hired Virgil Bogue to draw up the city’s first comprehensive plan. A core element of Bogue’s plan was a grand Civic Center in the Denny regrade district that included a public buildings, large civic plaza and a boulevard leading to a central train station. There was a plan for the Seattle coastline and an expansion of the Olmsted parks and boulevards and acquiring Mercer Island as an “island park - a people’s playground, worthy of the city of millions which will someday surround Lake Washington.” <http://www.seattle.gov/cityarchives/exhibits-and-education/online-exhibits/seattles-city-halls>

SEATTLE COMMONS (1995)

The Seattle Commons, first proposed in 1991, was a plan to redevelop the South Lake Union light industrial district as a new residential and high tech urban village. A central 60-acre civic lawn was framed by high-tech laboratories, condos, restaurants, and urban amenities. The linear park connected the downtown retail and office core to Lake Union. Supporters argued the Commons would create a large, centrally-located metropolitan park that Seattle lacked, and support a new urban, mixed use neighborhood. A \$100 million property tax levy to construct the park was narrowly rejected by voters in 1995, and again in 1996.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANS (1995-2000)

After the adoption in 1994 of the City’s first Comprehensive plan under the Growth Management Act, the City provided funds for community members to develop more specific plans for urban villages, places targeted for growth. Ultimately, the City Council approved 38 neighborhood plans created by nearly 20,000 citizens. The plans identify actions needed to ensure that each neighborhood will continue to thrive and improve as Seattle grows over the next 20 years in ways that meet commitments under the State’s Growth Management Act. Most plans included recommendations for new or improved parks and other open space. Many recommendations were implemented in future park levies. <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-planning>

PRO PARKS LEVY PLAN, 2000

Passed in 2000, the 2000 parks levy provided \$198 million for the acquisition of parks, development of projects, on-going maintenance, park programming and environmental education. The levy helped fund more than 100 projects throughout the city of Seattle. https://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/1015proposedcip/dpr_overview.pdf

PARKS AND GREENSPACE LEVY, 2008

Passed in 2008, the Parks and Greenspace Levy provided \$146 million in funding for the acquisition of neighborhood parks and greenspaces as well as the development or restoration of parks, playgrounds, playfields, facilities, and trails. The levy also provides funding for environmental restoration work and the development of community gardens. (https://www.seattle.gov/financedepartment/1015proposedcip/dpr_overview.pdf)

PARKS LEGACY PLAN, 2014

In 2012, SPR released the Parks Legacy Plan. The plan identifies issues that need to be addressed to preserve the existing parks system while making it more efficient in terms of ongoing facility maintenance, programming, and land acquisition. Several goals related to the plan include accessible parks, relevant programming, and park sustainability for current and future generations.

SEATTLE PARKS DISTRICT-

In 2014, city residents voted to approve the creation of the Seattle Parks District. The Seattle Parks District will use property taxes to fund the development of neighborhood parks on previously acquired land as well as ongoing maintenance and operations of parks and facilities, community center, and park programming. (source: <http://seattle-parks.budget.socrata.com/#!/about>)

Appendix: Maps

Seattle’s public space system is shaped and influenced by environmental factors, infrastructure, hazards and regional context. This Appendix includes additional maps that could contribute to discussions about Seattle’s public space system.

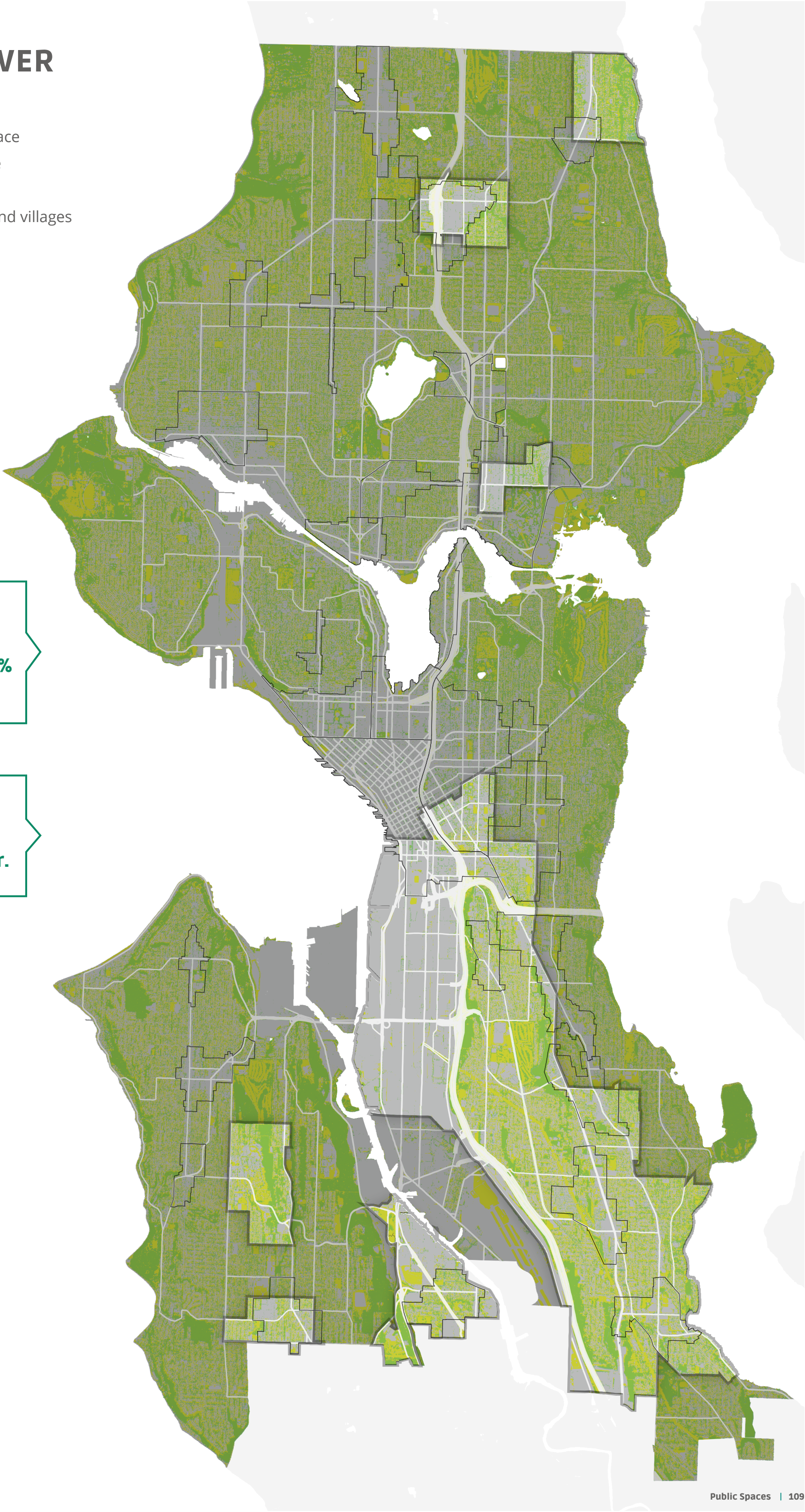
- Land Cover
- Drainage and Wastewater
- Habitat and Ecology
- Sea Level rise and Flooding Risk
- Tsunami Risk
- Earthquake Risk
- Landslide Risk
- Liquifaction Risk
- Volcano Risk
- Contaminated Sites
- Coal/Oil Train Risk
- Freight Routes
- Regional Open Space
- Regional Watersheds

LAND COVER

- Tree canopy
- Impervious surface
- Pervious surface
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban centers and villages

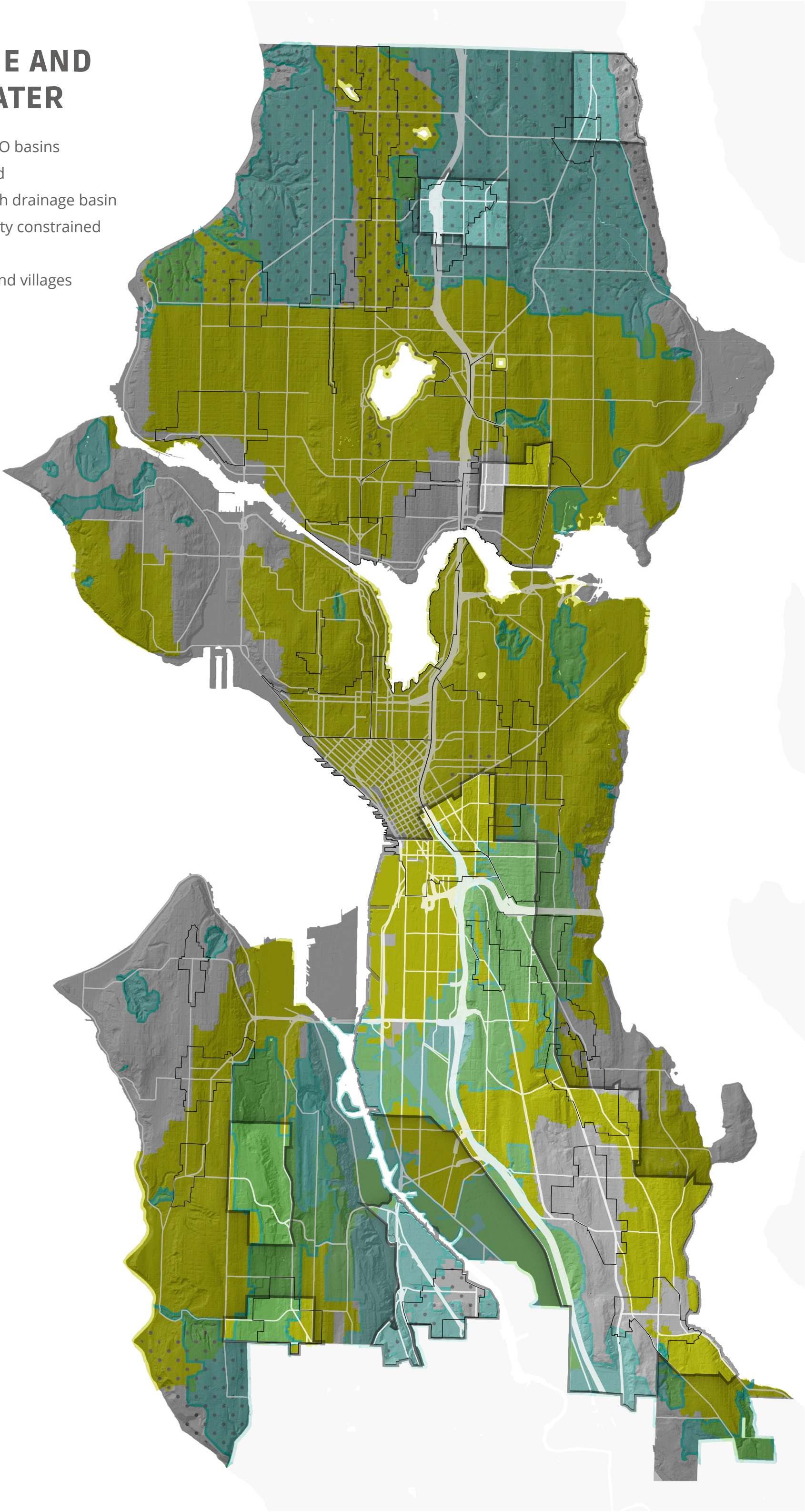
Impervious surfaces make up 57.3% of Seattle.

Seattle has 28% tree canopy cover.



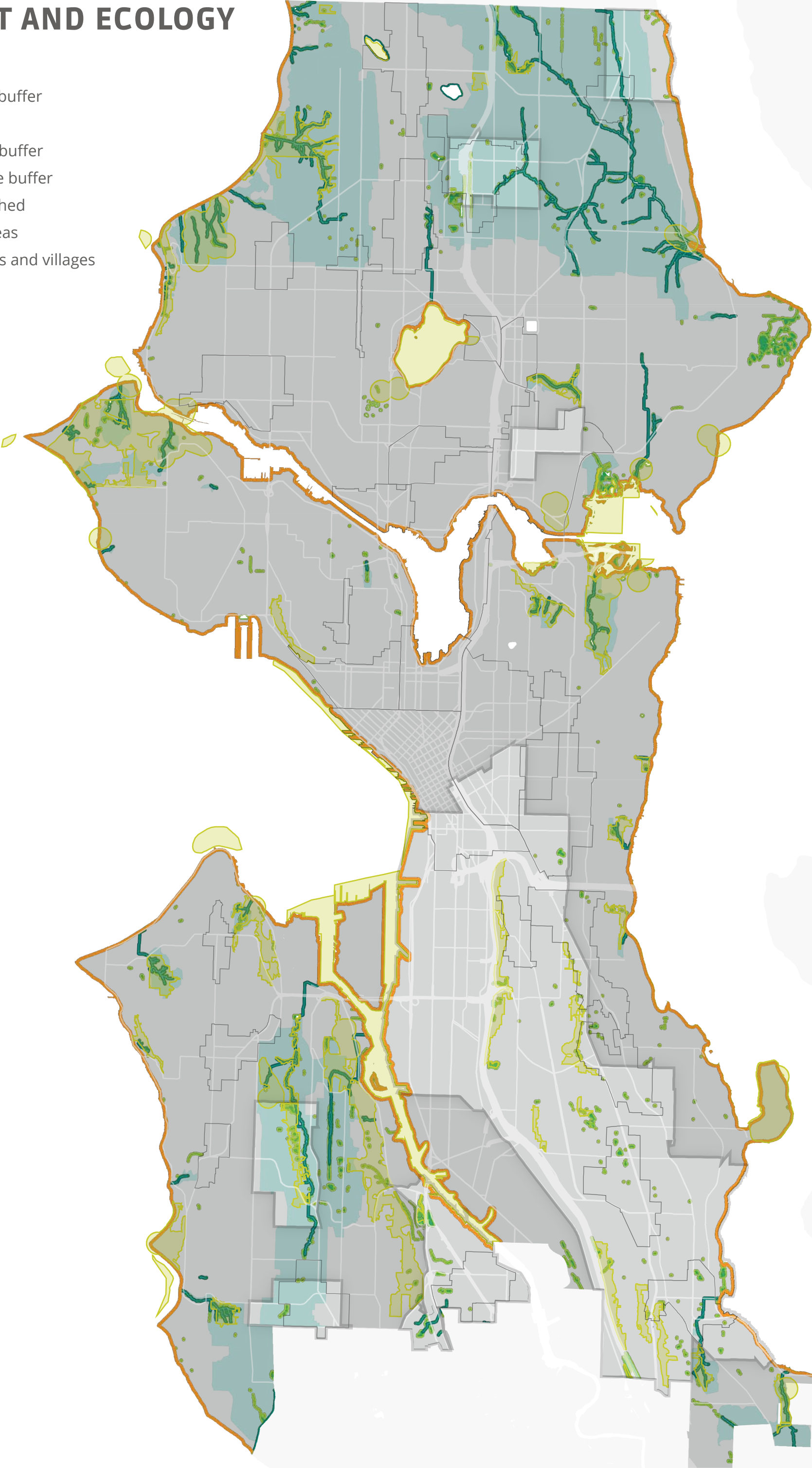
DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER

- Uncontrolled CSO basins
- Creek watershed
- Lower Duwamish drainage basin
- ▤ Drainage capacity constrained
- ▭ EEI Focus Areas
- Urban centers and villages



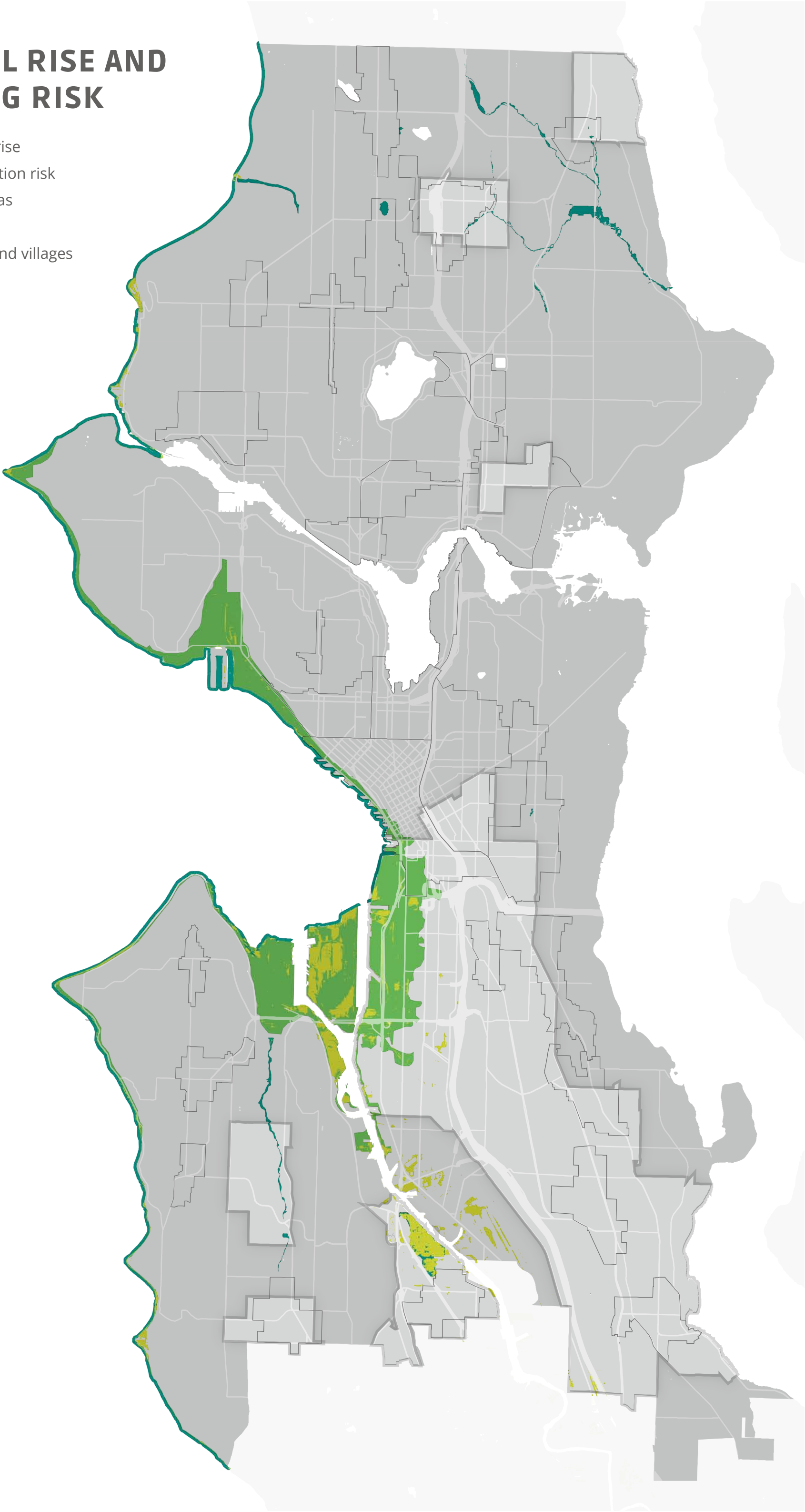
HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

- Wildlife area
- 100' riparian buffer
- Wetland
- 100' wetland buffer
- 200' shoreline buffer
- Creek watershed
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban centers and villages



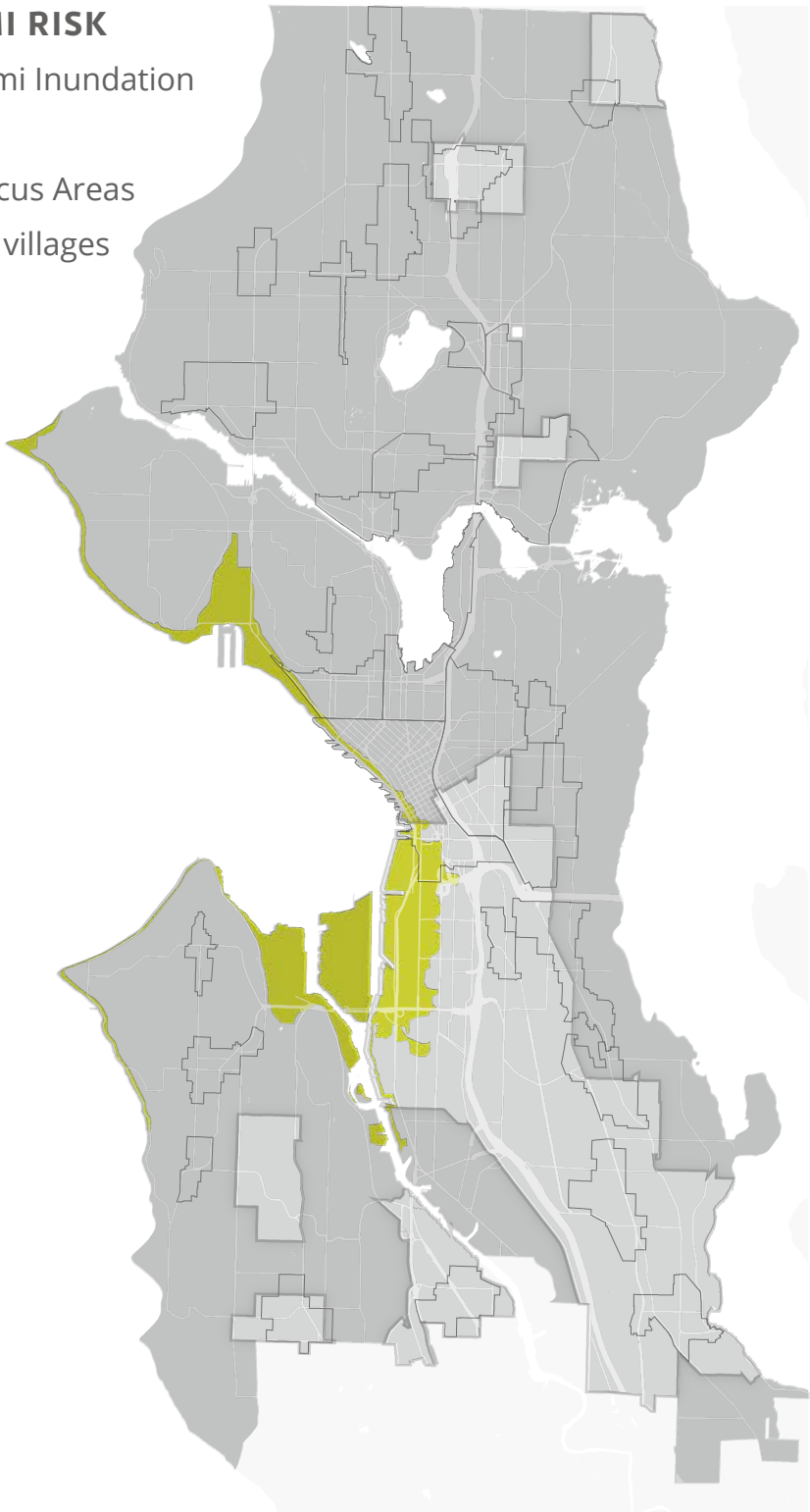
SEA LEVEL RISE AND FLOODING RISK

- 5-foot sea level rise
- Tsunami inundation risk
- Flood prone areas
- EEl Focus Areas
- Urban centers and villages



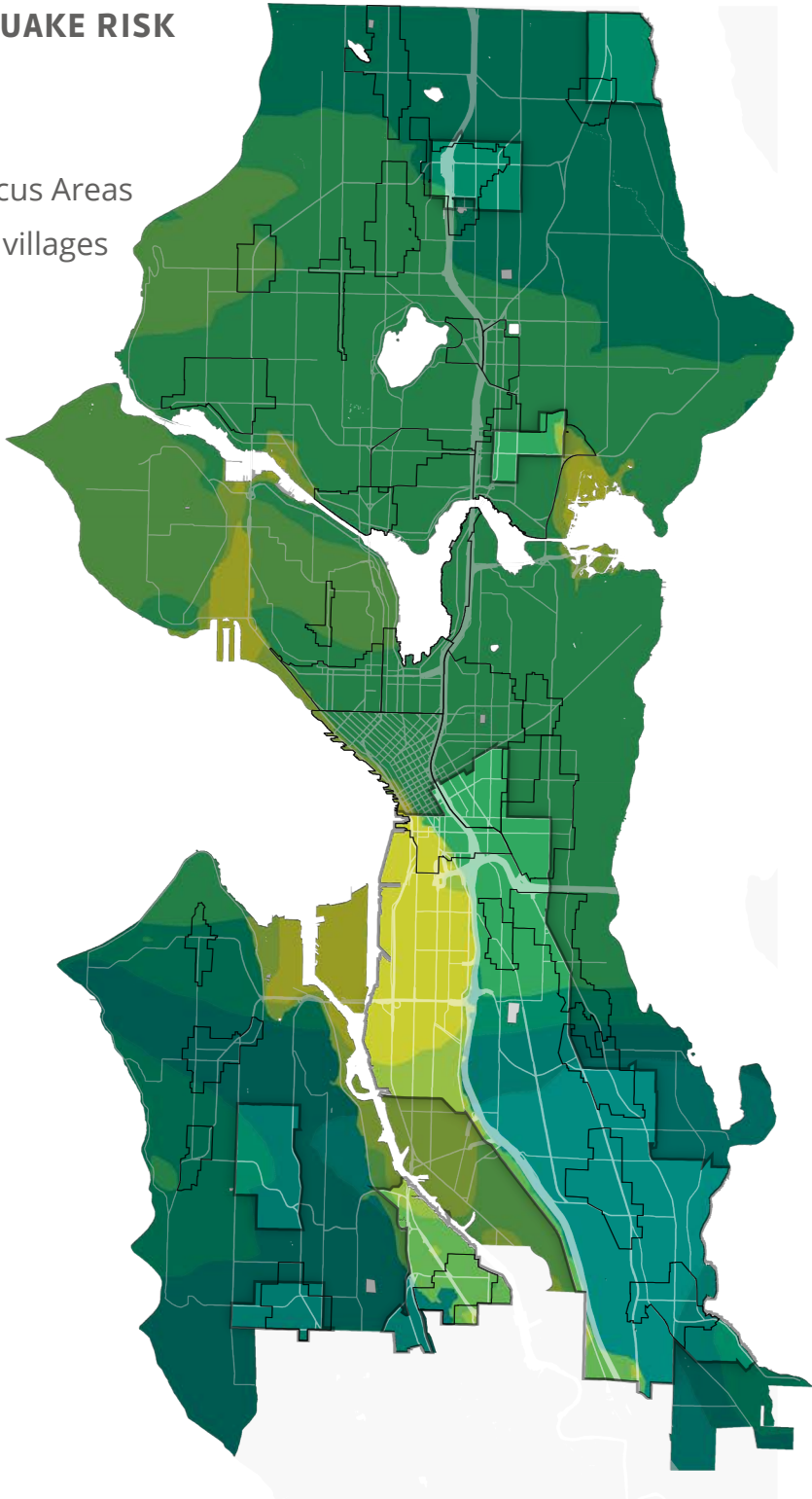
TSUNAMI RISK

- Tsunami Inundation Zone
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



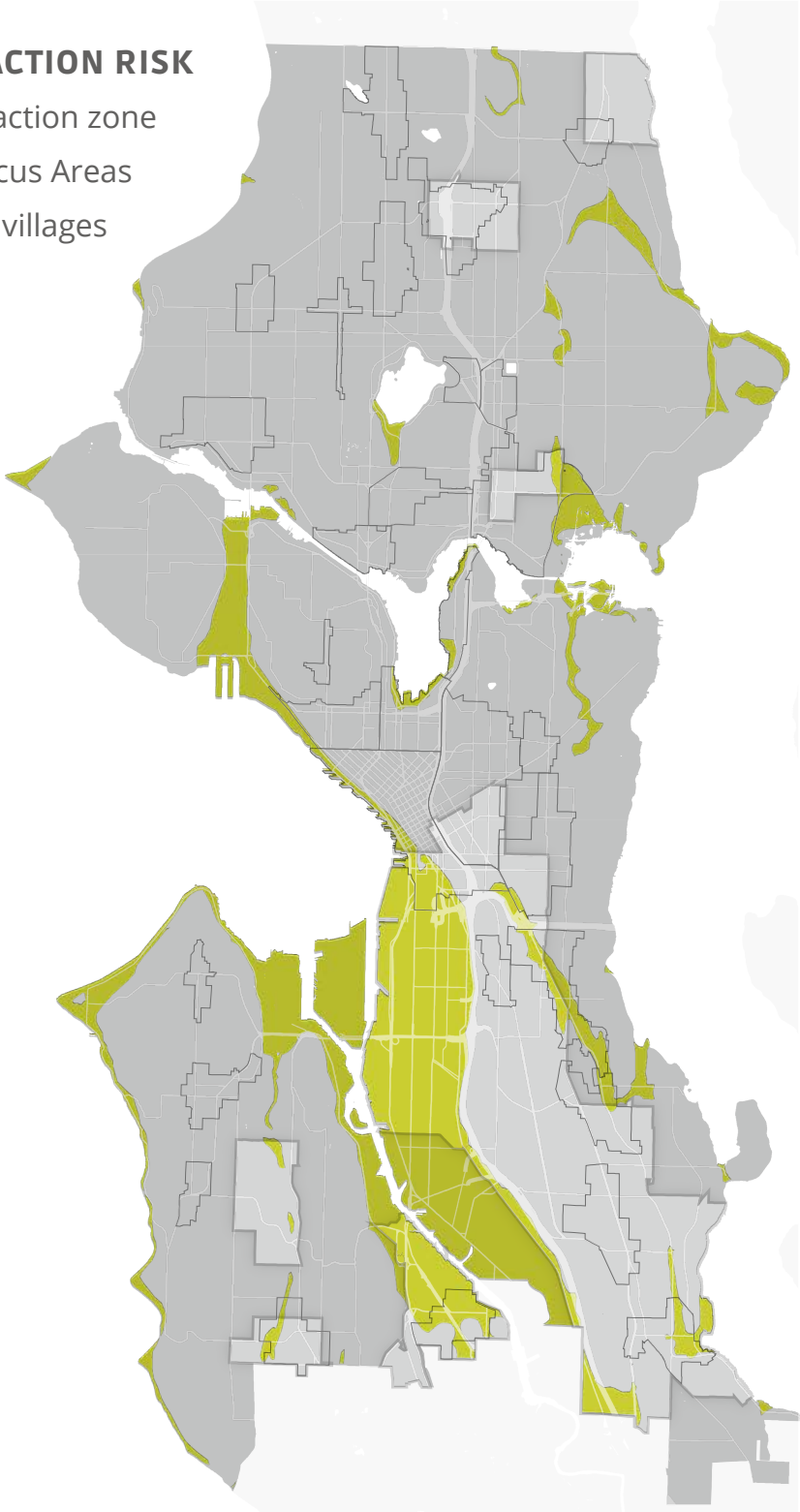
EARTHQUAKE RISK

- High Low
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



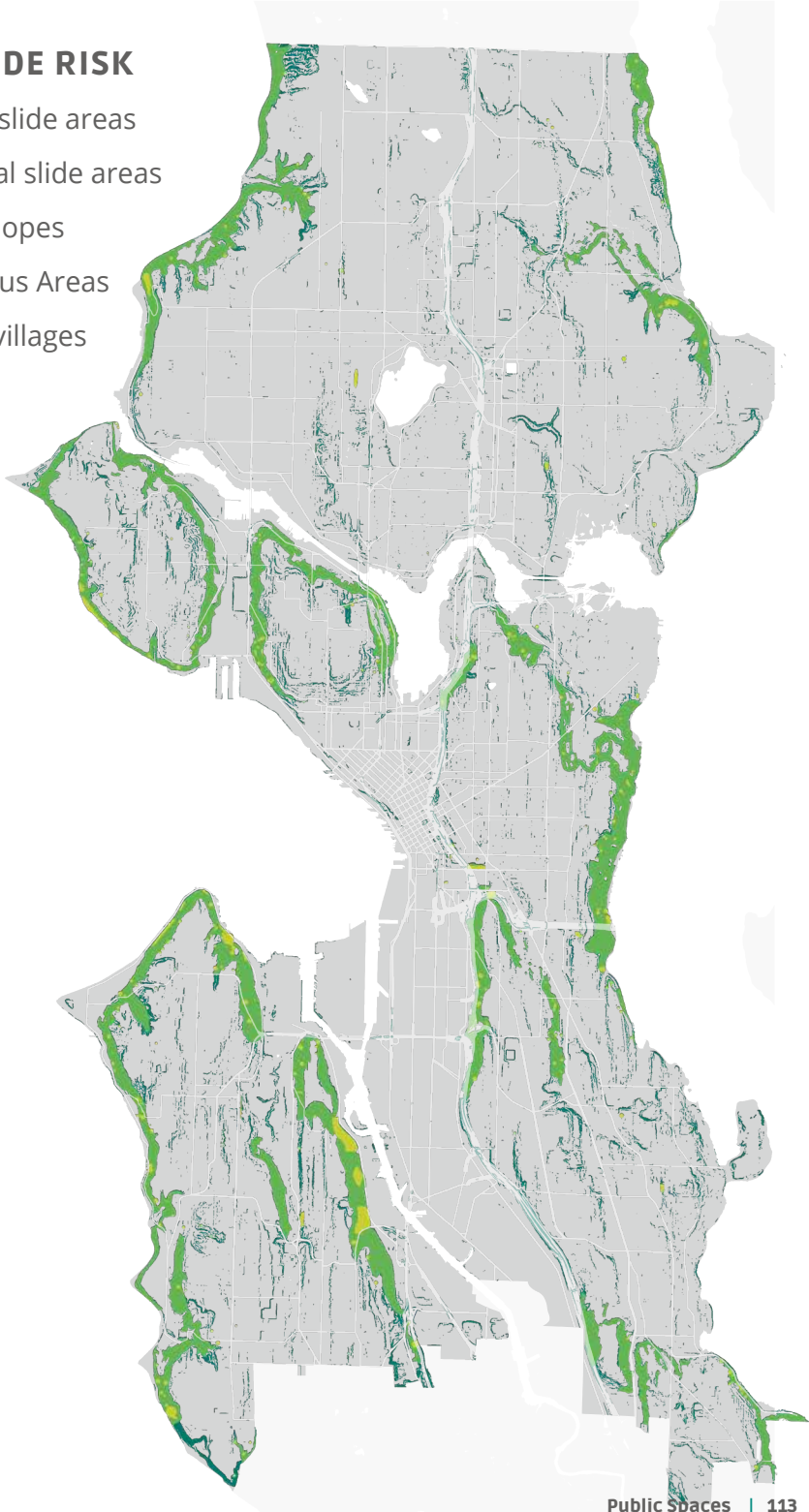
LIQUEFACTION RISK

- Liquefaction zone
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



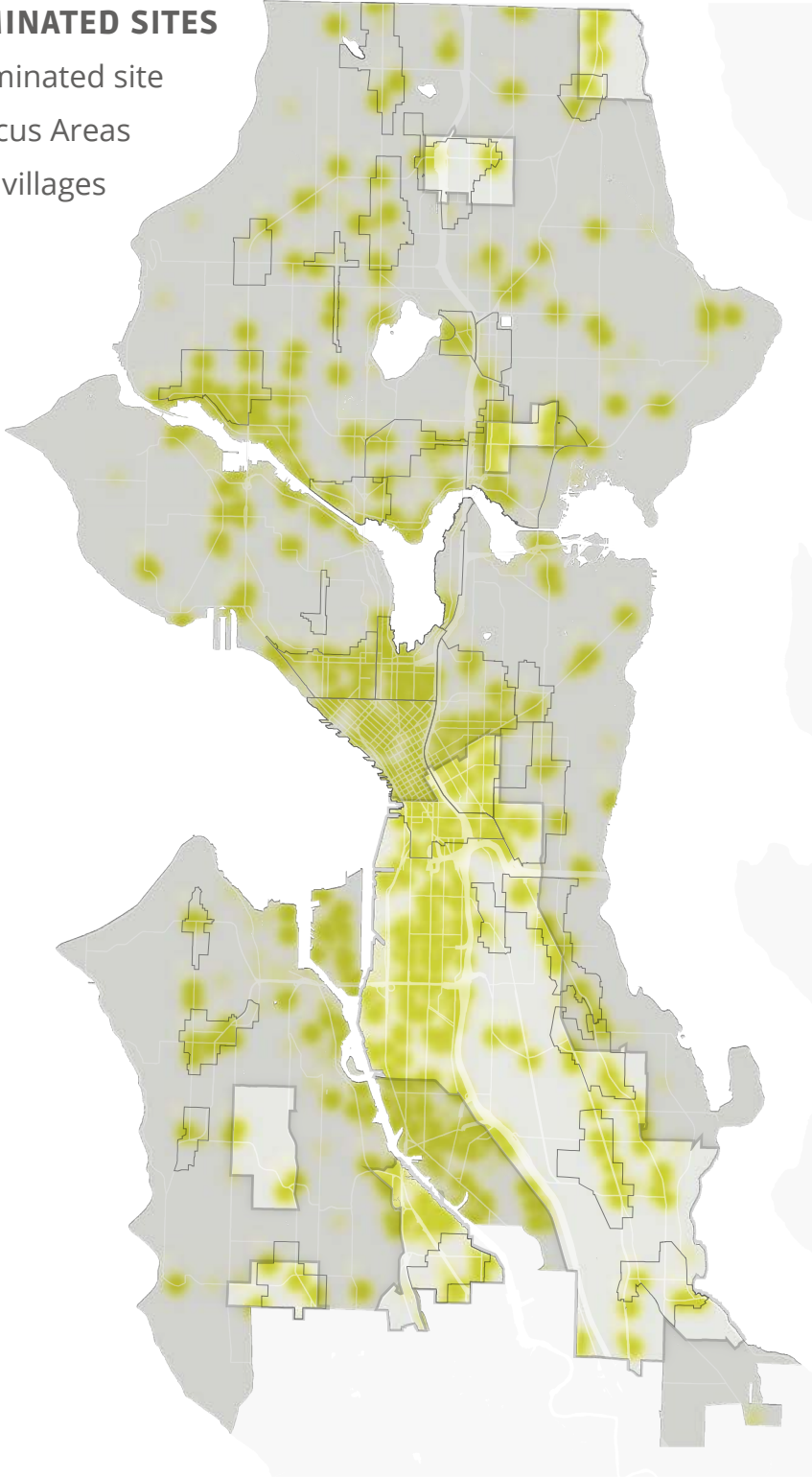
LANDSLIDE RISK

- Known slide areas
- Potential slide areas
- Steep slopes
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



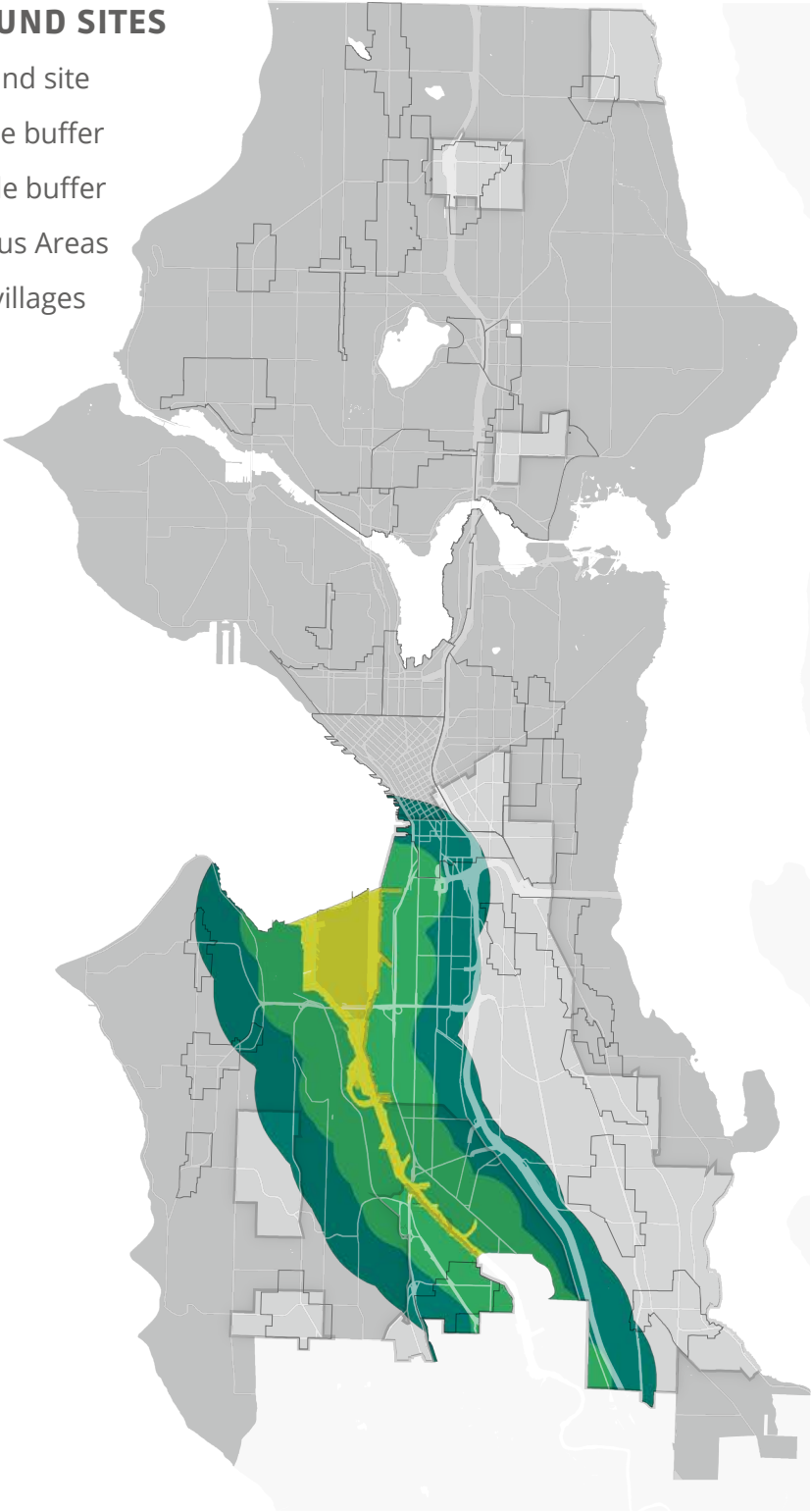
CONTAMINATED SITES

- Contaminated site
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



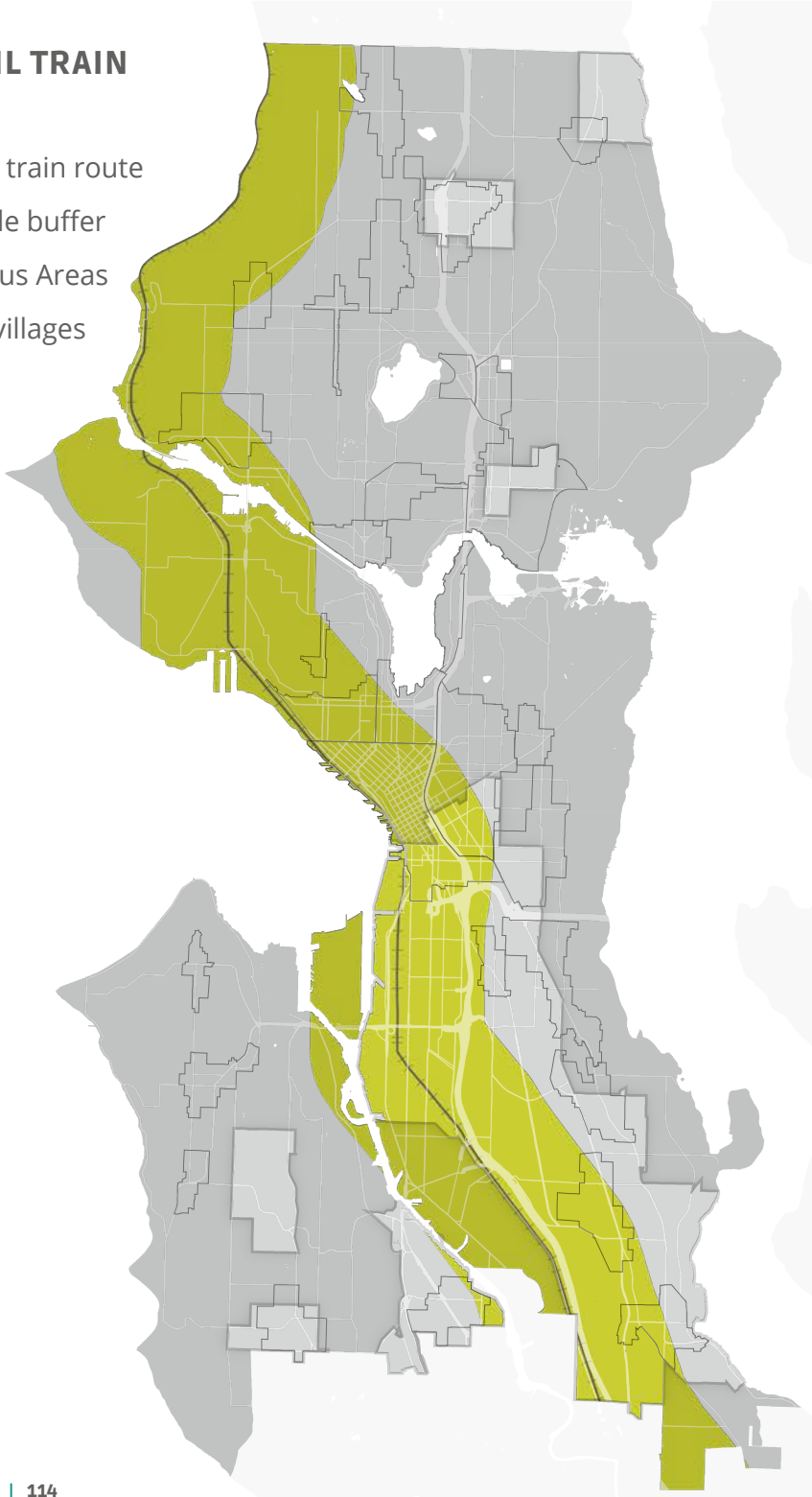
SUPERFUND SITES

- Superfund site
- Half-mile buffer
- One-mile buffer
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



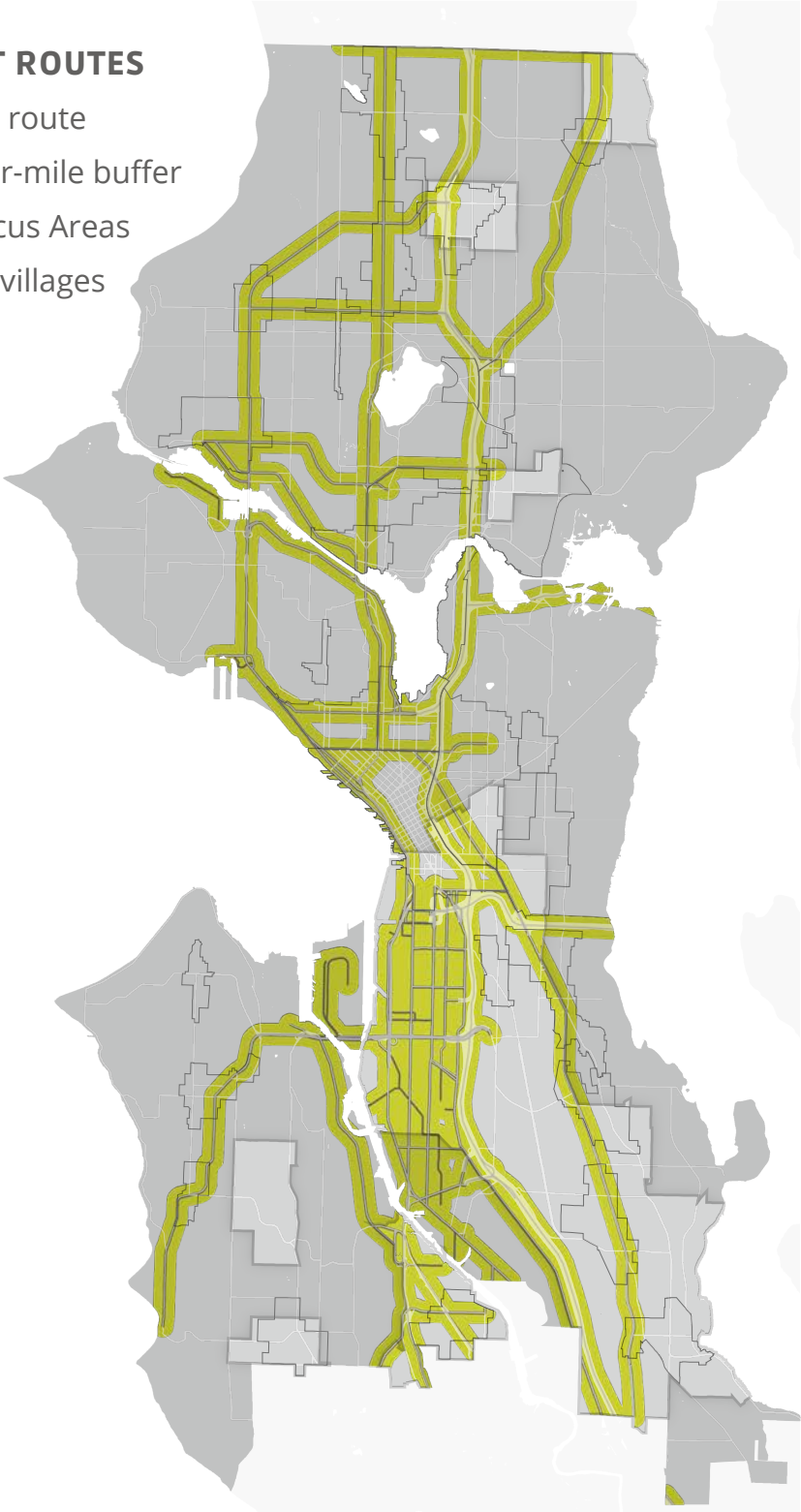
COAL/OIL TRAIN ROUTES

- Coal/oil train route
- One-mile buffer
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



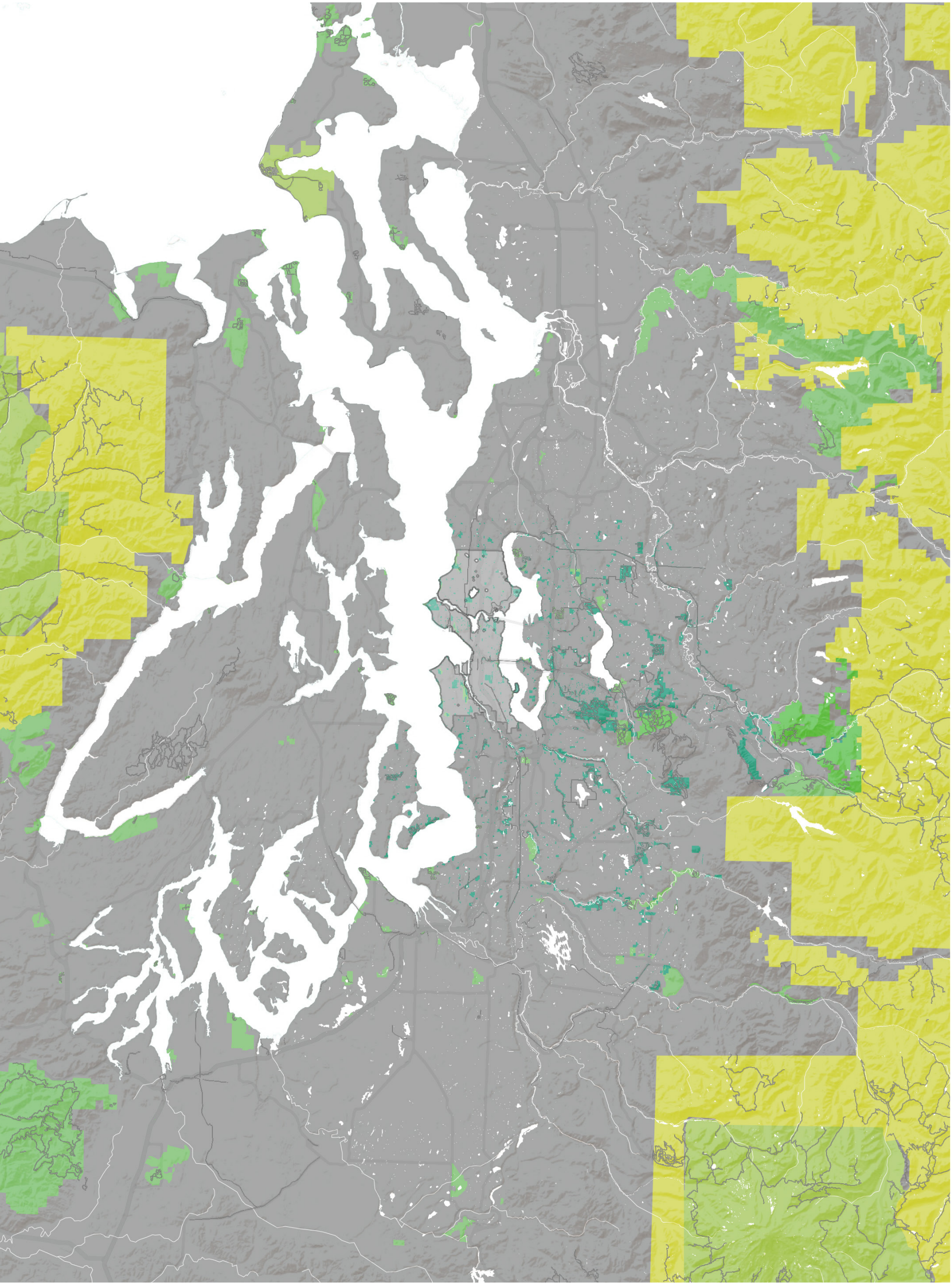
FREIGHT ROUTES

- Frieght route
- Quarter-mile buffer
- EEI Focus Areas
- Urban villages



REGIONAL OPEN SPACE

- Trail
- National Forest
- National Park
- State Park
- Other park



REGIONAL WATERSHEDS

- City-owned land outside Seattle
- Salmon Run

WATERSHEDS

- S Elliot Bay
- N Elliot Bay
- Green-Duwamish
- S Lake Washington
- N Lake Washington
- Other

