

LAKE WASHINGTON

Emerald Communities

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Historic Photographs



If only one thing is to be learned from the Lake Washington study area, it needs to be that a hundred-year open space planning effort can indeed have a hundred year effect. This study area, which runs south from Madison Park to Mount Baker, is rich in parks, beaches, scenic vistas, and habitat, much of which stems from the original Olmsted plans.

Thus, extensive new parks are not necessary within this area. What is needed most is increased access to the existing open spaces, especially for Seattle residents who live in areas that lack extensive open spaces and accessible shoreline.

This vision for the Lake Washington area is derived from three basic elements community, ecology and mobility, and how they can be integrated within the three predominant topographic zones: shoreline and ravines, hillsides, and ridgelines. Each element is addressed within each zone in different manners and degree of emphasis so as to create a diverse, flexible and functional system that responds to the needs of people and the environment.

LAKE WASHINGTON: past and future

We envision an outdoor environment that encourages residents to get out and walk (bike, kayak, etc) with rewards for doing so and ample opportunities to commune with nature in many different forms and to enjoy a myriad of recreations: a great variety of public and privately owned open spaces of different sizes and shapes. The premier spaces will be along our waterways, but all residents will live within easy walking distance of a park. The next hundred years will witness the evolution of a healthy environment of integrated systems with opportunities for all citizens to be physically active with clean air, land and water for everyone.

Existing conditions



Current Photographs

















Dominant topography of study area showing topographic zones







STEPPED BUILDING

K

BOULEVARD

ML

DENSITY

2





Lake Washington Boulevard section, showing rain gardens and designated bike path



Example of a creek daylighting and habitat restoration







GOALS

- Support increasing density while expanding community spaces and facilities to improve livability
- Empower local community to take back, use, and enjoy open spaces around them
- Integrate a diversity of open spaces within neighborhoods
- Use open space to connect and provide access to civic centers Make open space flexible, with temporally shifting uses to meet the needs of all (both human and non-human)
- Ensure open space and the built environment will reflect local and regional culture while facilitating healthy and environmentally beneficial ways of life.



STRATEGIES

- Foster interactions between nature and people; incorporate nature into everyday life
- Promote mixed use, mixed income developments along ridgelines and Martin Luther King Boulevard cluster community centers in these stable and accessible areas
- Ensure new developments and open spaces reflect and celebrate local cultures, environment and identity
- Cluster community facilities (schools, shopping areas, libraries, etc) within neighborhoods for easy access
- Retain single family
 neighborhoods on the currently developed eastern slopes as
 connection to the history of the
 area
- Develop public shoreline facilities such as a public canoe, kayak rental facility and boat launch
- Make shoreline accessible to all
 Open all street ends by 2020, shoreline is publicly owned by
- 2100
 Create landmarks at ridgeline trailheads to encourage use and access of lakeside parks and shoreline



GOALS

- Every section of waterway, including streams, is nature-friendly or has some nature-friendly aspect like a fish shelf or dappled shade
- Every shoreline street end is open for public benefit, and an aggressive acquisition program strategically purchases shoreline, ravine and streamside properties
- Sustainable and ecological features will be built into the landscape.
- Water conservation and filtering methods, energy conservation devices and small scale agriculture are designed into landscapes, as much as possible addressing multiple uses.





STRATEGIES

- Promote shoreline stewardship through incentives and regulations
- Ecosteward zones promote green roofs, emission-free vehicles only, mature tree protection, and backyard wildlife sanctuaries
- Transfer of development rights to redirect growth from ecologically sensitive areas & hazard zones to urban villages.
- Filter all runoff before it enters lake Washington by creating rain gardens and swales along lake Washington blvd.
- Link existing and acquired open spaces to create habitat corridors.
- Green streets, emission-free masstransit, clean energy sources and the promotion of green building techniques clean the soil, water and air for a healthy environment
- Spaces that enjoy both cultural and ecological value can be shared temporally, or have access restricted during certain times of day or seasons
- Institute and celebrate seasonal closures of habitat-sensitive areas (e.g. nesting areas during breeding season)
- Set up mechanism to allow transfer of development rights from natural disaster-damaged properties (earthquakes) to facilitate rebuilding in "safe" urban village zones.
- Use acquired damaged land for open space and habitat



GOALS

- Al residents are able to walk everywhere they need to go (work, school, shopping, parks, etc) on a daily basis
- Mass-transit and streetcar nodes within walking distance for all
 residents, allowing access to the rest of the city
- Personal vehicles will only be necessary for exceptional (weekly, monthly) trips
- Lake Washington parks and open space will be easily accessible for all Seattle residents



STRATEGIES:

- Strengthen and create east-west pedestrian, bike and streetcar paths, trails and corridors to allow universal access to community centers and, open spaces, and shorelines. Limit automobile traffic on Lake Washington Boulevard to commutehours and weekends only by 2020 and by 2100, only streetcar traffic and emission-free vehicles allowed. Expand bicycle Saturdays and Sundays further north along Lake Washington Boulevard to Madrona Beach and increase the number of bicycle-only days
- Start a community shuttle to Lake Washington beaches with shuttles running every 20 minutes and picking up passengers from a designated pick-up point in Rainier Valley (and/or other areas) and stopping at the beaches along the lake.
- Develop mass-transit on SR520 and by 2020, make the bridge "HOV" only. Access to 520 will run down Madison, rather than through Montlake or the Arboretum.
- Run emission-free commuter ferry across Lake Washington with additional tourist-oriented sightseeing ferry along the lakeshore as well.
- Streetcar will run along Lake Washington Boulevard, the ridgeline, and at key, east-west points streetcar will run along Lake Washington Boulevard, the ridgeline, and at key, east-west points

Washington

Lake

DESIGN PREMISE

- By 2100, all power generation will be occur at the neighborhood scale
- Solar and wind will be the primary power types and density will be focused on the ridgeline

• Space requirements: linear ridgespace

- New structures needed
- Decentralization promotes clustered, denser development
- (for the power stations to serve)
- Main stations can serve as nodes

GOAL

To integrate the infrastructure needed for local power generation in to the urban environment and using it to meet other community needs



GENERATING FOR GENERATIONS Integrating power production into the daily environment and daily life



FOR E.W STREETCAR

Lake Washington



Study views showing density increase along the ridgeline and (shown approximately 6-8 story developments) and how linear and landmark towers would integrate within and enhance the landscape

Ideal ratio of average building height to height of small scale towers is $4{:}5$

Ideal ratio of average building height to height of landmark towers is $2{:}3\,$









