



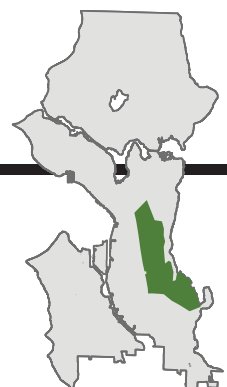
RAINIER VALLEY

ENVISION THE VALLEY/PROSPER IN PLACE

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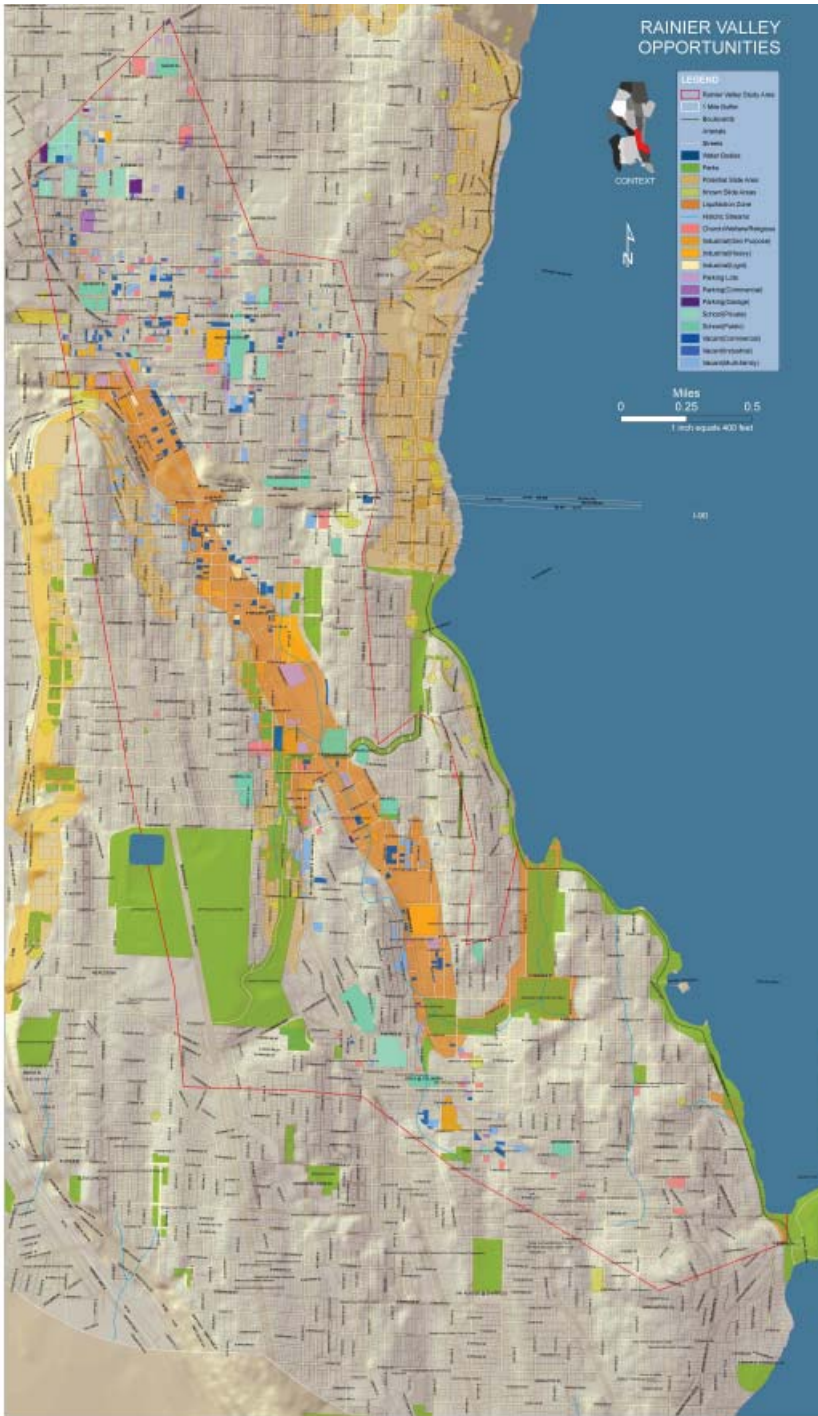
PRELIMINARY RESEARCH



Rainier Valley



PRELIMINARY RESEARCH



Rainier Valley



CONCEPT

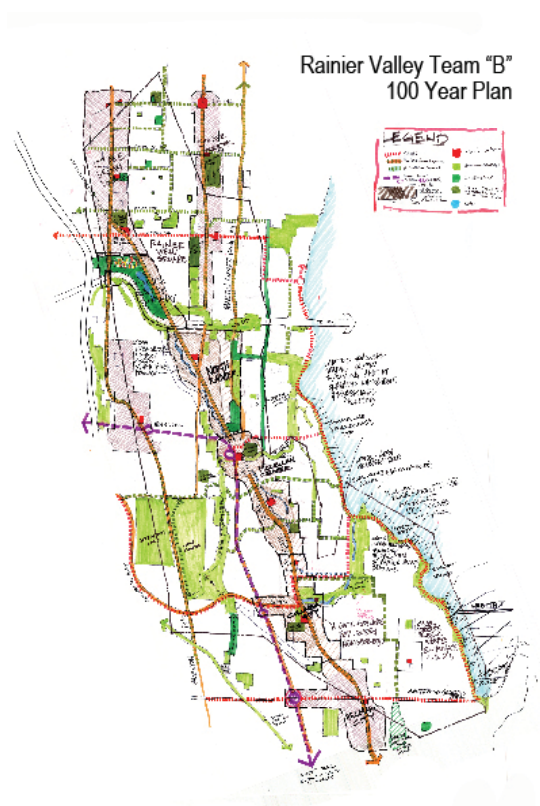
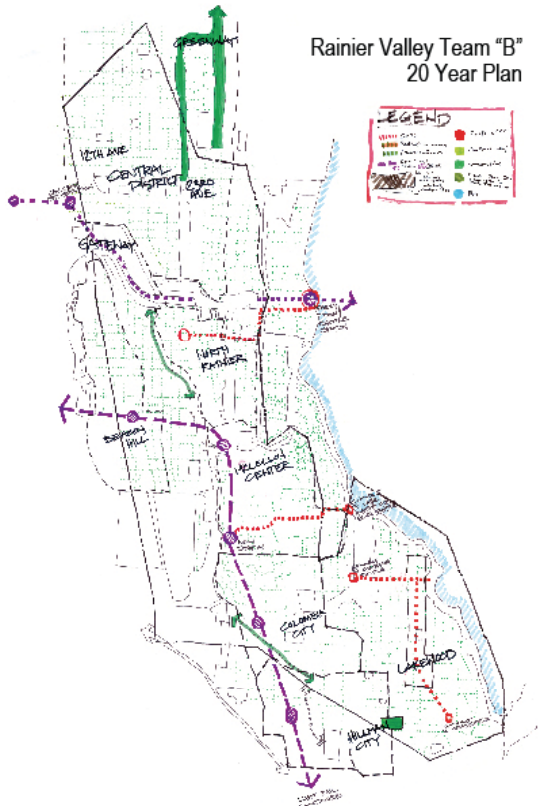
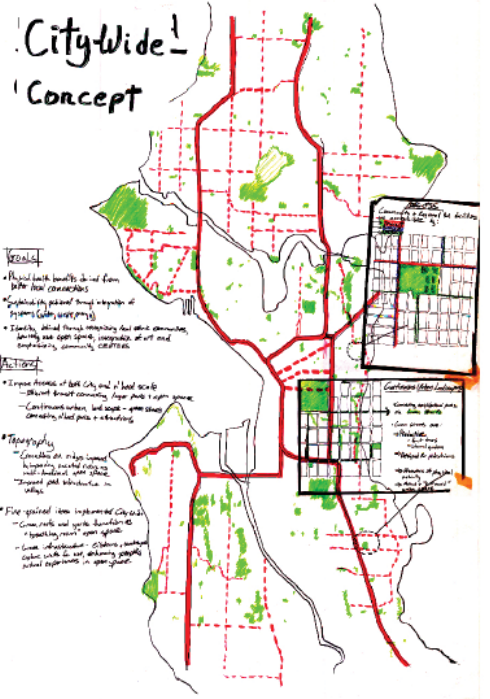
Rainier Valley Team “B” or, the Prosper in Place Team (PIP), is composed almost entirely of people who live in and love Rainier Valley. Our vision responds both to our appreciation of the place of Rainier Valley in the City in the present and into the future; and to our nuanced understanding of the existing physical place and its history. At present, in terms of cultural resources and physical topography, Rainier Valley is rich. However, in many other ways, the residents and workers of Rainier Valley are underserved in terms of daily needs. Typical of so many Seattle neighborhoods, north-south circulation in Rainier Valley is easy, while cross town connections represent a significant obstacle to coherent movement.

To address the issues of mobility, access, equity, environment, education and economy, we envision a future where the neighborhood is self-sufficient, that is, everything a person might need is available in situ—recreation, goods, services and employment. While we have strong functional connections to downtown and other neighborhoods via automobile routes and public transportation, we have urgent need of improved multi-modal access in and out of our neighborhood. We are also an important crossroads for cross-lake automobile traffic to downtown as well as the Mountains to Sound Greenway bicycle commuters. The PIP team has developed scenarios for both anticipated demographic density and resource scarcity. By interweaving economic nodes into the fabric of green infrastructure, the team has undertaken to both enhance cultural vitality and protect natural resources.

The PIP team appreciates that our community and our watershed can only remain viable for 100 years by pairing density with open space and thereby emphasizing both sustainability and self-reliance.

Our view is both introspective and holistic; we look in (refuge) to both social and natural resources in the watershed while investing in city and regional connectivity and infrastructure (vantage). We envision a place that fully embraces its geographic location, natural resources and cultural diversity. With this in mind, we strive to maintain strong community bonds through efforts to build the rich palette of opportunities and resources within the watershed, while maintaining important linkages to the greater region.

Rainier Valley



IMPLEMENTATION

Rainier Valley Team A Notes

Immediate Policy Changes

- Establish a TDR program to create the new Rainier Valley agricultural zone
- Lobby for a tax shift (away from income/services, towards resource consumption)
- Legislation to change water rights (allow capturing and reuse of storm/gray water, cistern)
- Forge partnerships with custodians of existing open space (schools, parks, DOT, churches, government)
- Revise zoning and building codes to encourage environmentally sustainable development (green roofs, water collection/reuse, permeable surfaces, cisterns)
- Increase incentives for private development of public plazas

Continuing Initiatives

- Expand P-patch gardens (e.g., McClellan Hillside Garden)
- Renew “gray to green” school yard initiative
- Ensure equitable access to open space

5 Years

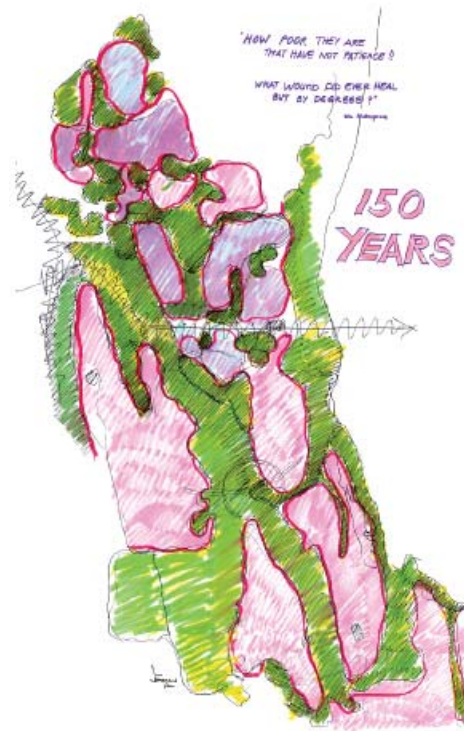
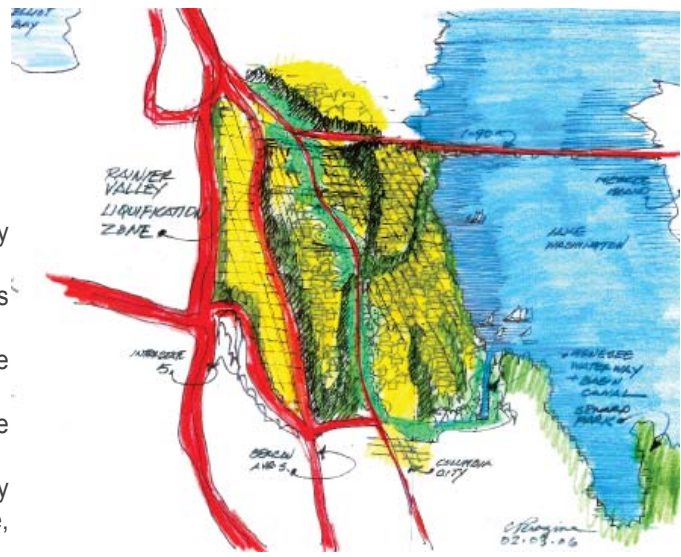
- Engage artists to create wayfinding system reflective of local culture/identity (unified, city-wide format with direction and distance to nodes, pedestrian scale)
- Improve bike/pedestrian path continuity on Beacon Ave South
- Build Martin Luther King greenway (with path on east side of ROW between I-90 and Rainier)*
- Construct bike/pedestrian connection ramp between I-90/Rainier bus stops and I-90 bike path
- Acquire open space in Squire Park
- Expand open space through public/private partnerships (schools, churches, alleys)
- Build green residential streets to improve ecological function and safety
- Complete Mountains-to-Sound Greenway to Elliott Bay
- Enhance existing and build new pedestrian stairways on street ROWs
- Identify pedestrian stairways with artistic solar/wind towers
- Acquire agricultural valley farmland
- Establish pedestrian water taxi service at Stan Sayers Park to U-District, Eastside, etc.
- Encourage local energy generation on public and private buildings (solar, wind, etc)
- Establish ‘ReStore’ outlet

20 Years

- Build bike/pedestrian promenade along Weller Street (with I-5 underpass)
- Build bike/pedestrian promenade along Main Street (with Yesler Terrace redevelopment)
- Build MLK greenway north of I-90 (with pervious pavers along edges and parking lane)
- Build connections to future I-5 Bikeway
- Create a gray water distribution system
- Fix MLK/Rainier intersection (tunnels? roundabout?)
- Connect Cheasty and Mount Baker Boulevards
- Re-establish the historic agricultural activities in the Rainier Valley (community-supported agriculture)

100 Years

- Restore Rainier Valley creeks
- Expand agricultural opportunities
- Mine the landfills at Genessee Meadow to recover materials and to restore natural waterways



Goals

- Create equitable access to nature and public space
- Develop continuous network of diverse open spaces layered with functioning ecosystems, urban agriculture, passive use, travel
- Reduce impervious surfaces by 70%
- Become energy self-sufficient with local energy production
- Reallocate public ROWs for

Envision the Valley

- Healthy living streams, forests and fields
- People live, love, work, play and travel
- People produce food and medicinal herbs, recycle waste and harvest energy from the wind, sun and water
- East west streets are community bridges
- Green streets produce less noise and pollution
- Connected to neighboring areas and city by open space, transit, biking and walking corridors
- Waste stream is captured as living energy and used within the community
- The powers of the wind, sun, and water fuel life
- Energy production, waste recycling, de-paving, and agriculture provide a diverse job base
- Streets support walking, biking, transit, drainage and agriculture
- Community identity and continuity gently evolves from diverse peoples and ecosystems
- Food and public spaces connect people
- Artful wind and solar towers mark valley entrances, corridors
- Traffic noise evolves to bicycle bells, birds, and babbling brooks
- Green infrastructure is cared for and continually replenished

20-YEAR VISION



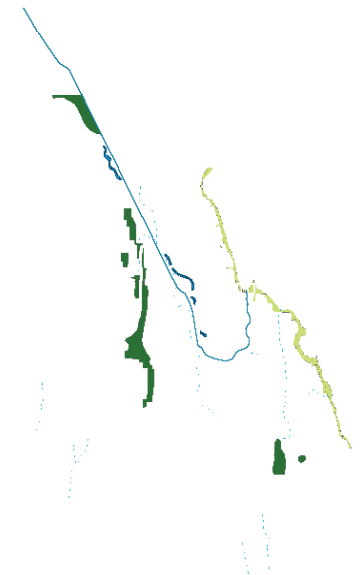
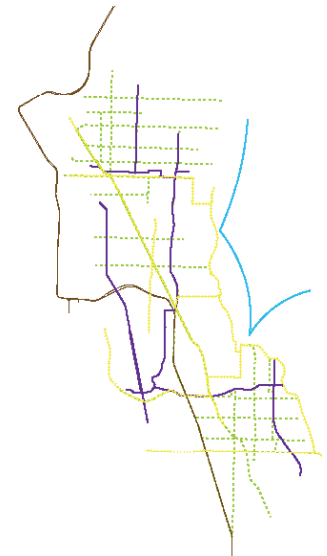
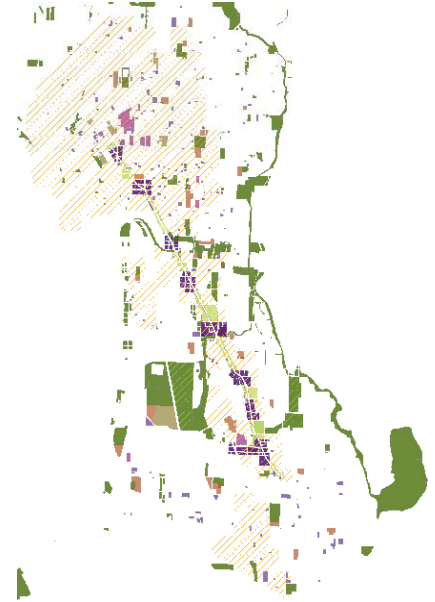
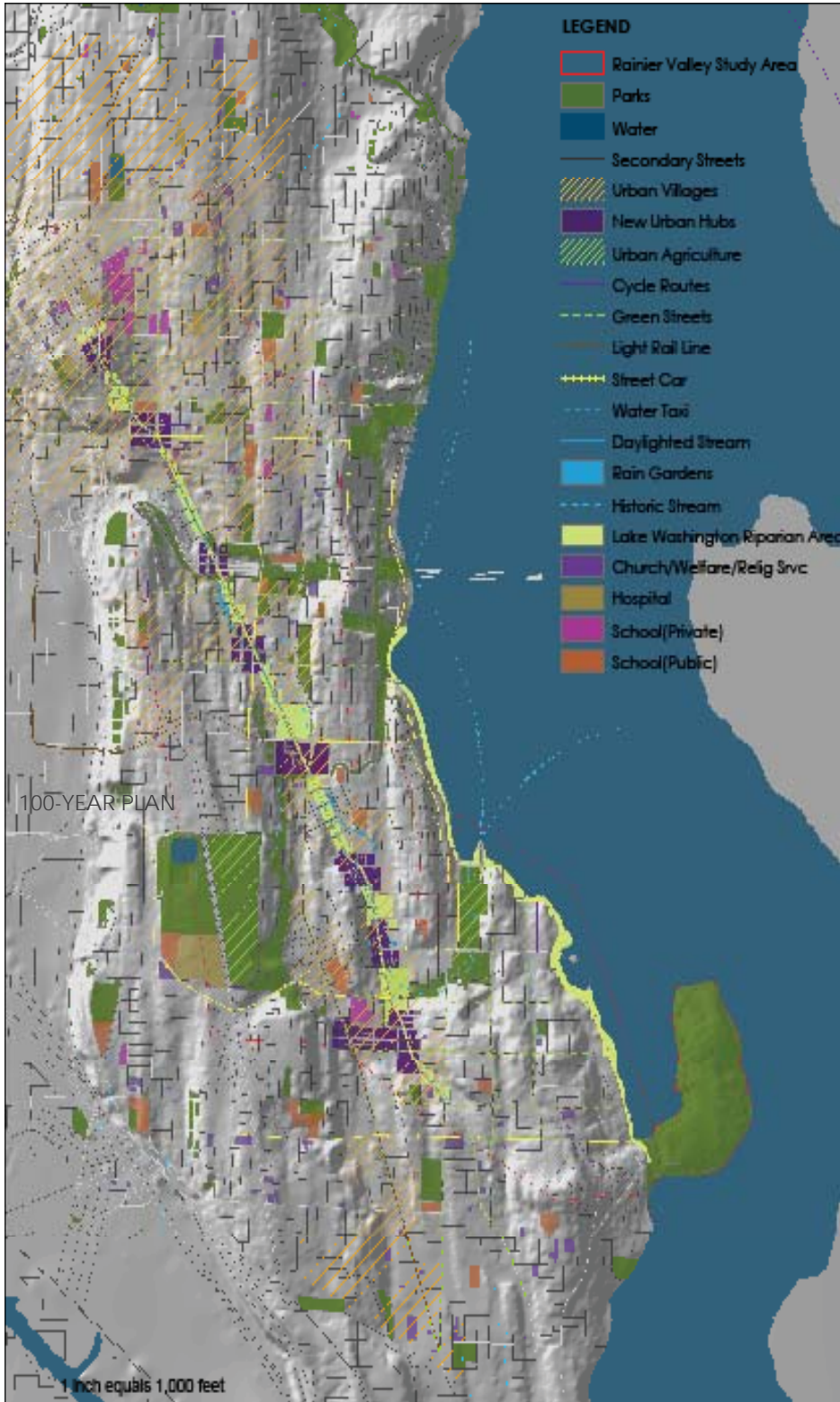
20-YEAR PLAN

The 20-year plan takes into account current planning documents (neighborhood and city) as well as the intimate knowledge of residents of the watershed, the communities, and the dynamics of existing land use and transportation patterns. The 20-year plan augments or creates trails, wayfinding devices, and natural drainage streets and embraces the current planning for Sound Transit Light Rail. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) are largely eliminated by the construction of green streets. In the next 20 years, the City accomplishes this by identifying and prioritizing those streets with the most impact on the individual CSO subbasins. We assume all streets are constructed as green streets, minimizing runoff, maximizing infiltration, and providing habitat with native plantings.

We envision an interconnected network of efficient and multi-modal transportation, including a focus on a variety of non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians. We have identified missing corridors required to complete this mission. This includes light rail connections between the Eastside and Rainier Valley, and a number of small bus or rail lines.

Density is moderated by pocket gardens on each block and identifying a number of steep slopes as open space. Quality of life is enhanced by plazas in each commercial core, and by careful consideration of adjacent uses – commercial activities that enhance public gathering spaces (like an espresso cart at the dog park) or picnic plazas near open air markets and clusters of dining places.

100-YEAR VISION



Rainier Valley

100-YEAR PLAN

The 100-year plan uses broader strokes to describe a watershed replete with a highly integrated and interconnected network of multi-modal arterials and streets, with the understanding that current modes of motorized transport technologies may change radically in the future. Rainier Valley will remain as welcoming a place for future immigrant communities as it is today, offering opportunities to maintain cultural identities while connecting to the fabric of the community through open spaces that provide gathering places, recreation, agriculture and ecosystem function.

An elaborate system of funding and implementation has been explored through the augmentation of current funding mechanisms and the creation of new sources. These include: levies, fee waivers, private foundations, public use of private spaces, brownfield funding, matching funds, and commercial business improvement districts. Further, energy generated through wind power, methane production, water harvesting and reuse and grid exchange will be sold back to the city in exchange for additional funding.

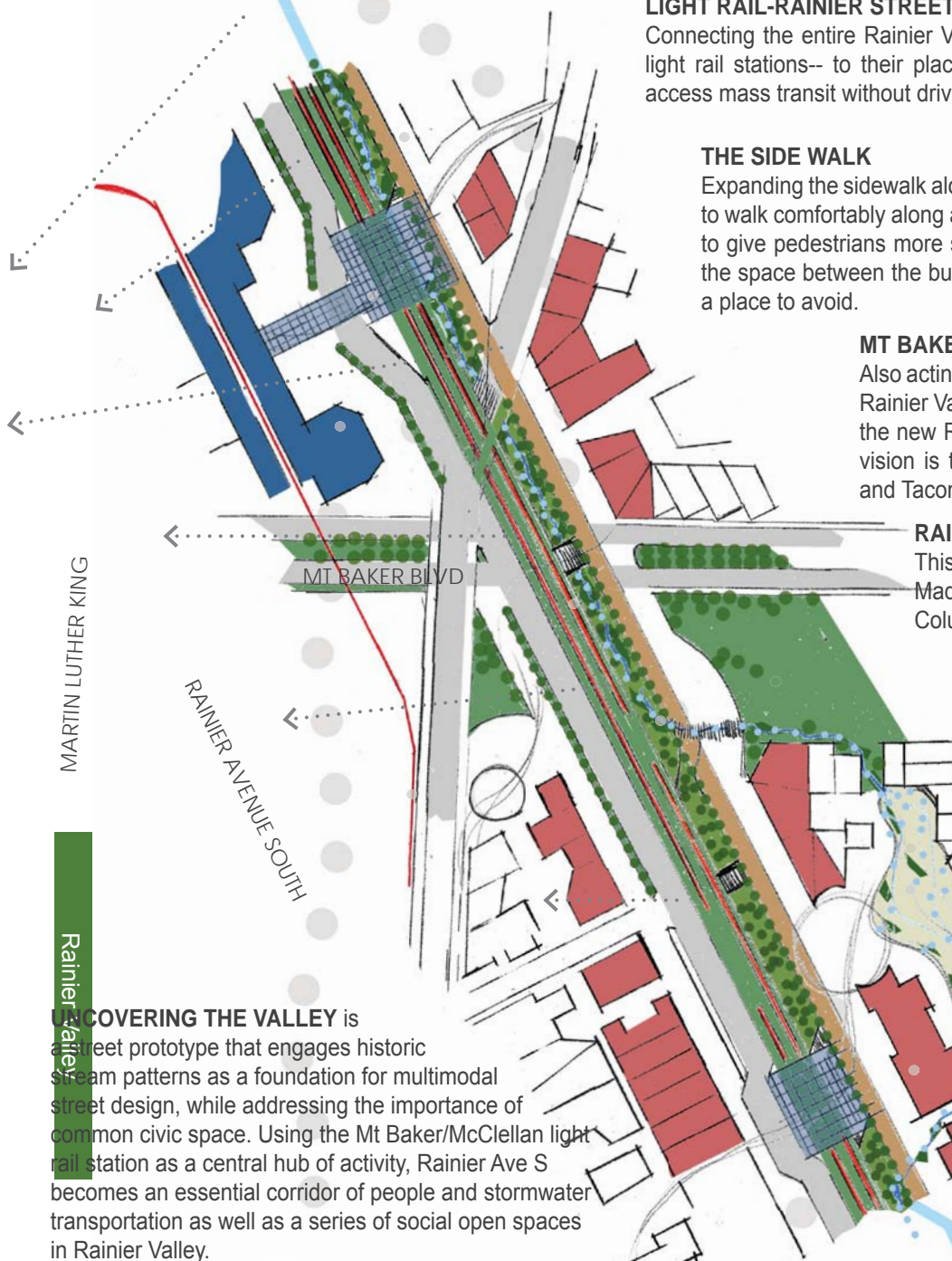


LAS RAMBLAS BARCELONA, SPAIN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

STRASBOURG, FRANCE

photo credit: pps.org

HISTORIC



LIGHT RAIL-RAINIER STREET CAR TRANSFER

Connecting the entire Rainier Valley community to Seattle's new light rail stations-- to their places of work-- will allow people to access mass transit without driving.

THE SIDE WALK

Expanding the sidewalk along Rainier Ave will give people room to walk comfortably along a vibrant cultural corridor. The idea is to give pedestrians more space than cars, so that we will see the space between the building and road as a place to be, not a place to avoid.

MT BAKER LIGHT RAIL STATION

Also acting as a central hub for community activity in Rainier Valley, this could be a destination anchor for the new Rainier Ave S. The ultimate Sound Transit vision is to run light rail between Everett, Seattle, and Tacoma.

RAINIER STREET CAR

This street car connects Rainier Valley with Madison street car, as well as Mt. Baker, Columbia City, and Othello light rail stations.

DAYLIGHTED STREAM

Reconstruction of Rainier Ave will provide an opportunity to daylight a historic stream that could serve as an important stormwater filter and aesthetic value to the street.

WETLAND FILTER

Diverting the daylighted stream through development would slow water down allowing sediment and nutrient removal while providing a breathing amenity to dense housing

UNCOVERING THE VALLEY is a street prototype that engages historic stream patterns as a foundation for multimodal street design, while addressing the importance of common civic space. Using the Mt Baker/McClellan light rail station as a central hub of activity, Rainier Ave S becomes an essential corridor of people and stormwater transportation as well as a series of social open spaces in Rainier Valley.



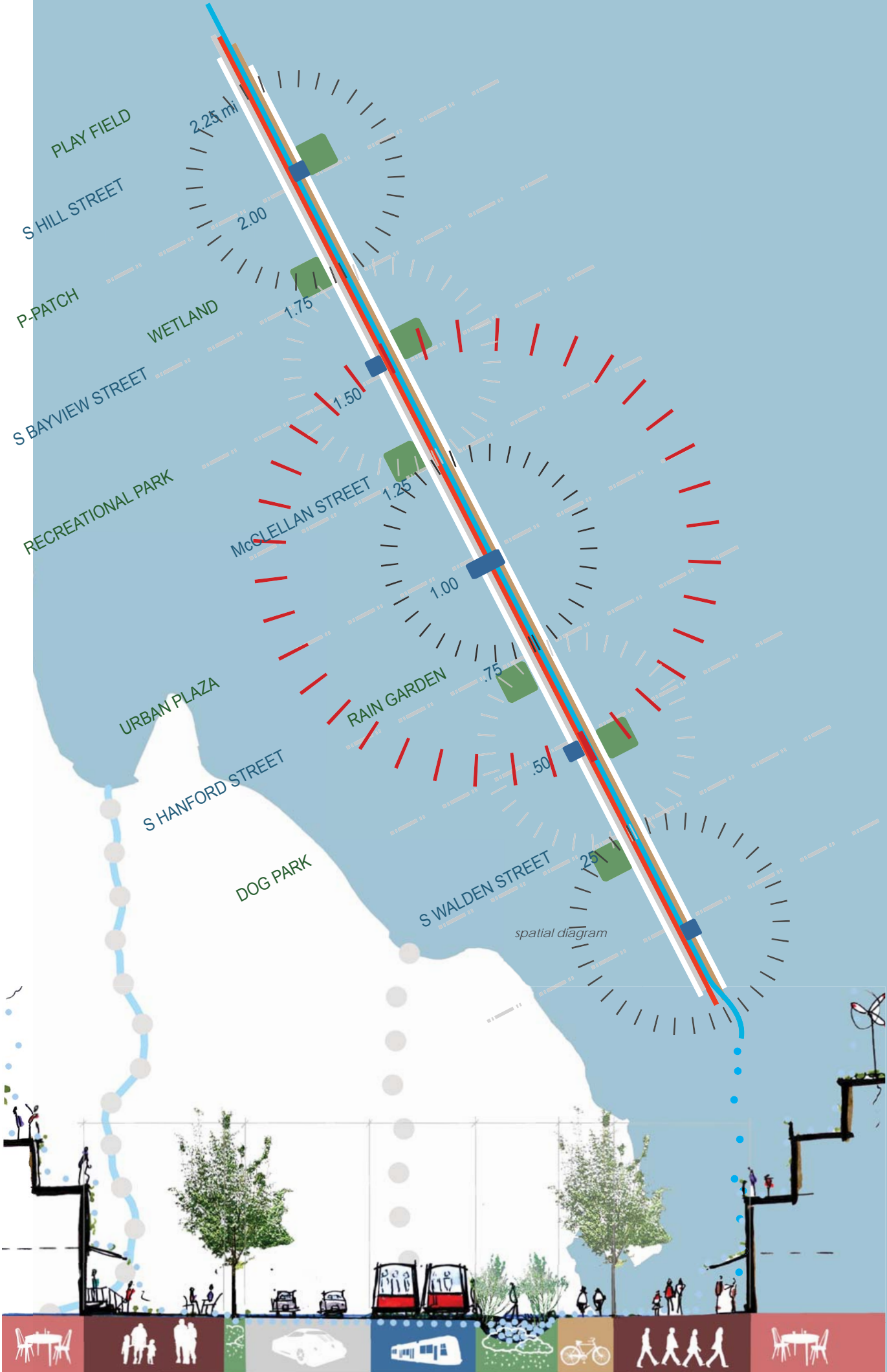
Daylighted stream on Rainier Ave S

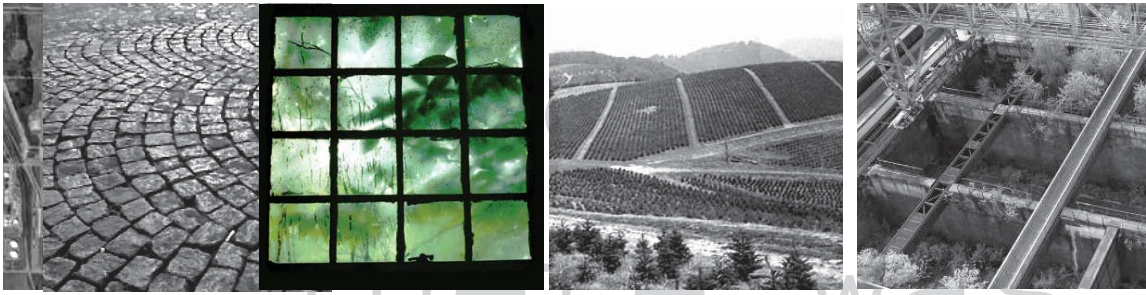
UNCOVERING THE VALLEY



FREIBURG, GERMANY

AVINGUDA DE GAUDI BARCELONA, SPAIN
photo credit: pps.org





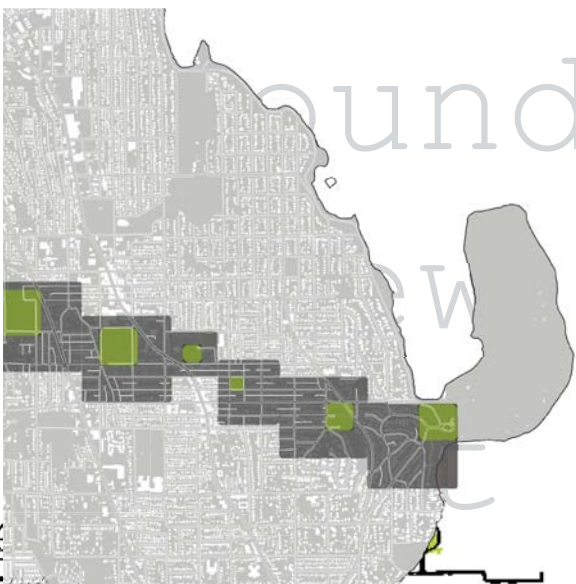
DESIGN CONCEPT

The infrastructural matrix of the city is shaped by the need to transport goods and provide services to a dense urban population. Metropolitan centers require vast external energy inputs to maintain robustness. Matrix components comprise a homogenous network of concrete, petroleum and steel, materials, which are conducive to vehicular mobility rather than facilitating non-motorized movement. Within this conventional paradigm, vegetation is interpolated as an aesthetic afterthought.

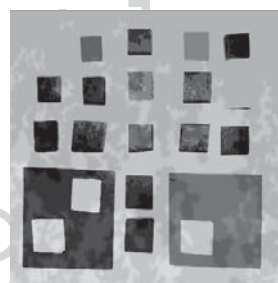
Through the mechanism of succession, (re)framing the city proposes to transform this matrix from a unsustainable, homogenous uni-directional resource sink into a diverse, renewable, multi-directional vegetative matrix into which human infrastructure is nested. The matrix retains the integrity of the grid thereby simultaneously honoring the historic agricultural footprint of Rainier Valley and the pervasive urban organizing principle, while also supporting ecological functionality. The proposed matrix will engage four typologies, or frameworks: forest, field, farm and fallow. These frameworks converge, overlap, blur, disappear and reemerge ultimately creating a green continuum. Like the successional model proposed within the ecological context, these linked frameworks will form a green corridor, one which provides a vital lifeline to neighborhood civic nodes and to the city at large. They will foster ecological, cultural and economic sustainability and awareness at different scales through onsite remediation of stormwater, carbon sequestration and phytodegradation. At the same time, these corridors act as cultural corridors, increasing community interaction by accommodating recreation, high density livable housing, alternative transportation modalities, urban agriculture and habitat for song birds, amphibians and small mammals.

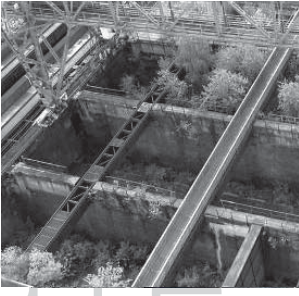
The project will be initiated by seeding existing parks, traffic circles and other open spaces with a fabric of complex typological layers. Both cyclical and catastrophic mechanisms instigate change over time: earthquakes, fires and landslides, decay and rejuvenation, and culling.

As these hubs expand, they will be connected along an east/west axis through a series of interwoven paths, daylighted streams, non-motorized transportation, playfields, and high density affordable artist-designed prefabricated housing for a transitional and diverse population. As these hubs expand, they will be connected along an east/west axis through a series of interwoven paths, daylighted streams, non-motorized transportation, playfields, and high density affordable artist-designed prefabricated housing for a transitional and diverse population. Fallow frameworks--comprising vacant lots, alleys, rooftops, street edges--are creative spaces of the organic city that simultaneously function as wastelands and productive sites. They are undesigned, democratic and grassroots.

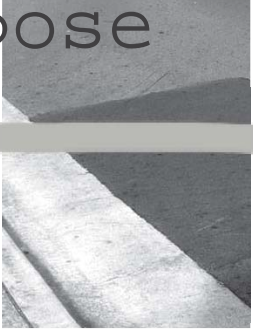


Rainier Valley

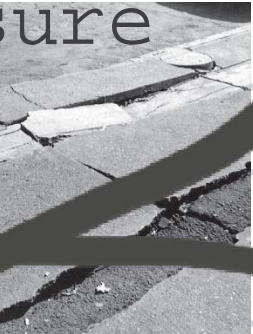




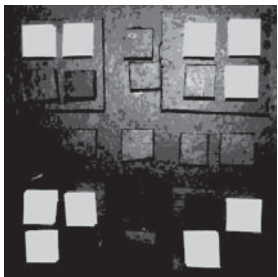
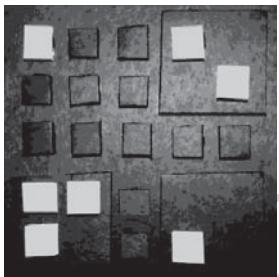
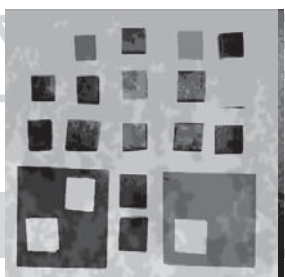
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Rainier Valley

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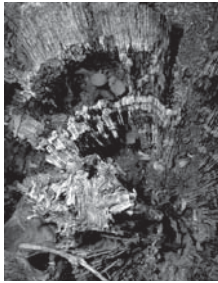


forest fallow farm field





forest and field frameworks



cyclical and catastrophic mechanisms for succession and change



farm, field and fallow frameworks overlap

Rainier Valley