

## TAYLOR CREEK

*URBAN TAPESTRY*

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# URBAN TAPESTRY: WEAVING TOGETHER HUMAN AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

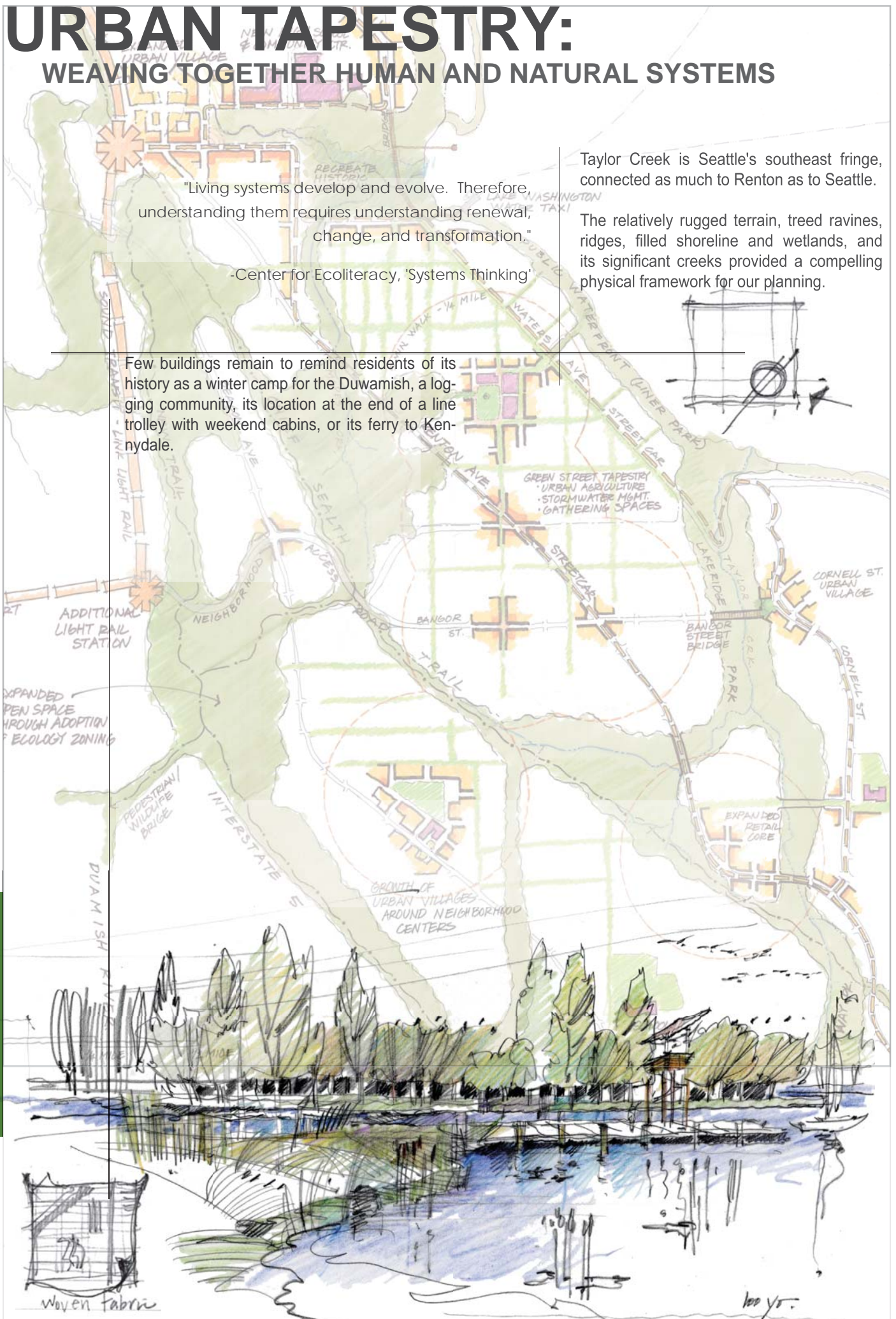
"Living systems develop and evolve. Therefore understanding them requires understanding renewal, change, and transformation."

-Center for Ecoliteracy, 'Systems Thinking'

Taylor Creek is Seattle's southeast fringe, connected as much to Renton as to Seattle.

The relatively rugged terrain, treed ravines, ridges, filled shoreline and wetlands, and its significant creeks provided a compelling physical framework for our planning.

Few buildings remain to remind residents of its history as a winter camp for the Duwamish, a logging community, its location at the end of a line trolley with weekend cabins, or its ferry to Kenndale.



Taylor Creek



# HUMAN SYSTEMS

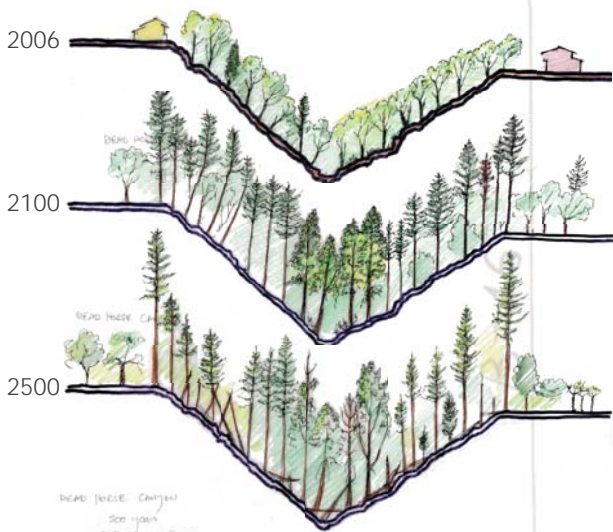
Open space is an integral part of the urban tapestry which is made up of threads from information systems, transportation systems, park systems, and natural systems, bound together by all the people, dogs, birds, and fish that use them.

The patterns that emerge when the threads weave together create a rich environment for community involvement and life long learning.

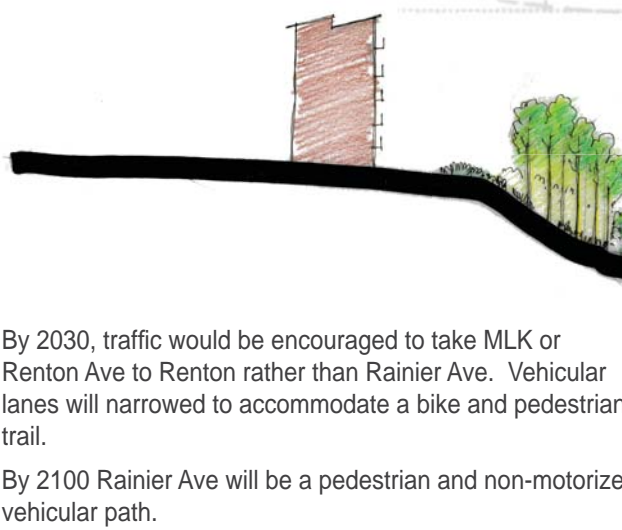
When human systems are managed like an ecosystem, their complexity is highly valued and they are managed for wholeness rather than the efficiency of individual components.

## e-zones

E-Zones, or environmental zones, are based on the Portland, OR zoning precedent. Areas within the city are assessed for their potential ecological importance and zoned accordingly. Future development within designated areas must positively



affect the ecological function of the site. This not only discourages development around sensitive natural systems, but encourages sustainable development and an urban fabric that weaves human and natural systems into a functional tapestry.

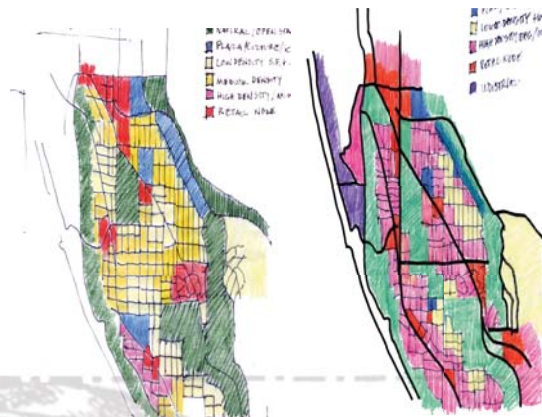


By 2030, traffic would be encouraged to take MLK or Renton Ave to Renton rather than Rainier Ave. Vehicular lanes will narrow to accommodate a bike and pedestrian trail.

By 2100 Rainier Ave will be a pedestrian and non-motorized vehicular path.

## tapestry streets

Encourage density of people and activities around civic cores such as schools, grocery stores, community centers, and libraries to accommodate population growth and protect the functioning natural systems. By 2030 the transportation/connections grid will begin to shift to multiple uses rather than singular



20 YEAR

100 YEAR

### PLAN

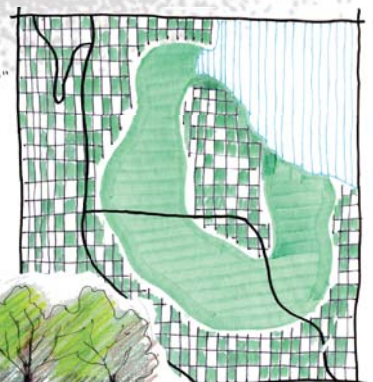
- Natural/Open Space
- Plaza/ Culture/ School
- Low Density/ Single Family Residential
- Medium Density
- High Density/ Mixed Use
- Retail Node

- Natural/ Open Space
- Plaza/ Culture/ School
- Lower-Density Housing
- High Density/ Mixed Use Residential Node
- Industrial

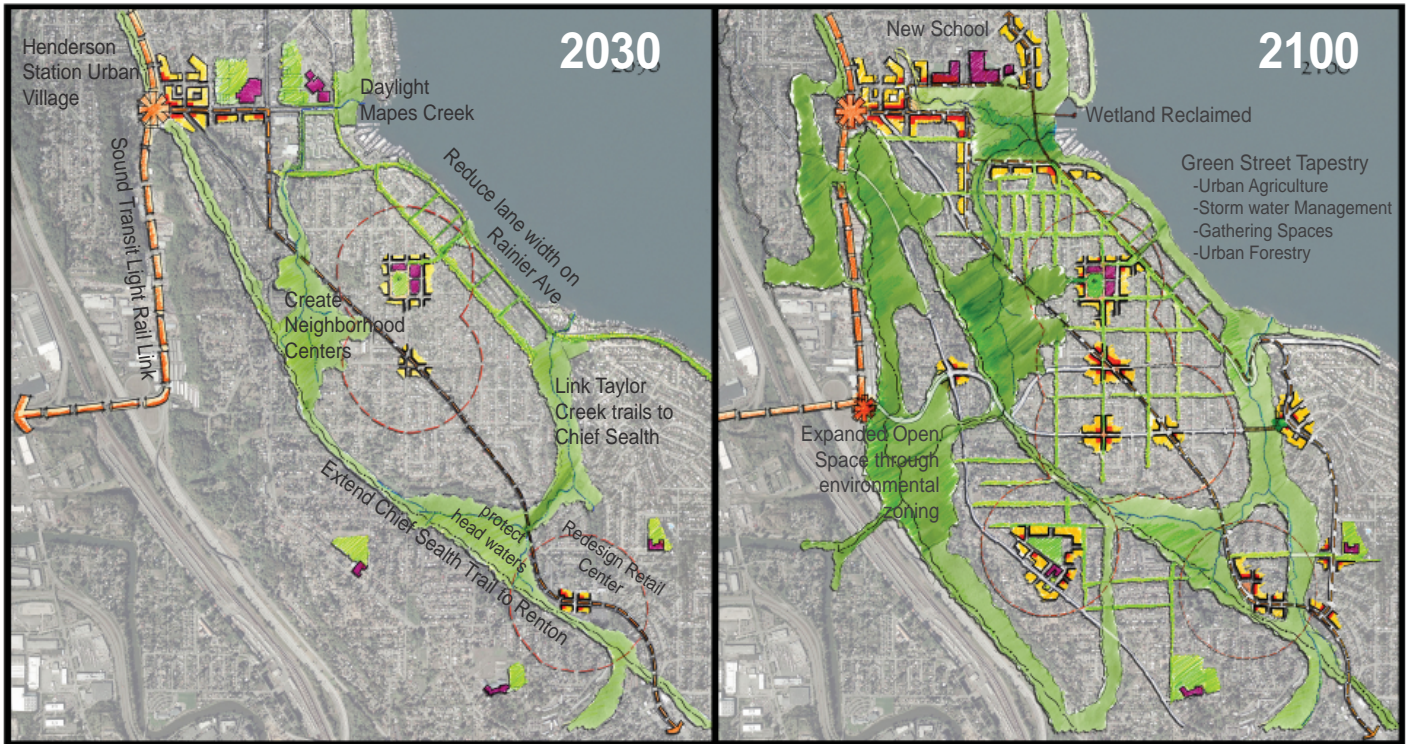
purpose of moving motor vehicles. Sidewalks and pedestrian corridors will be integrated with local built facilities and natural environments to encourage walking.

The portion of Rainier Ave along the lake will be developed as a pedestrian corridor with recreational, cultural, and retail opportunities with respect to sensitive habitat.

- CRAWLER STREETS
- DISTRIBUTED "TAPESTRY" SYSTEM
- NATURAL PRESERVE
- ARTERIALS

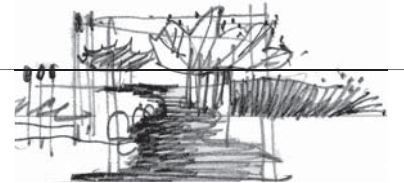


Taylor Creek



A = 34

## NATURAL SYSTEMS



### *the urban forest*

Street trees are valued for aesthetics as well as function.

They are a defining characteristic of Olmsted's boulevards. They moderate temperature fluctuations. They are the lungs of our city, absorbing the carbon dioxide we produce and providing us with oxygen.

Since the average urban street tree has a limited life span of 60 years, why not manage them like a commercial forest? By planting blocks sequentially over several years with trees that have wood with high economic value, there will always be tree cover through out the city and the city would have an economically sustainable urban forest. Currently, harvested street trees are being used by local carpenters who make and sell high-end furniture and artwork.

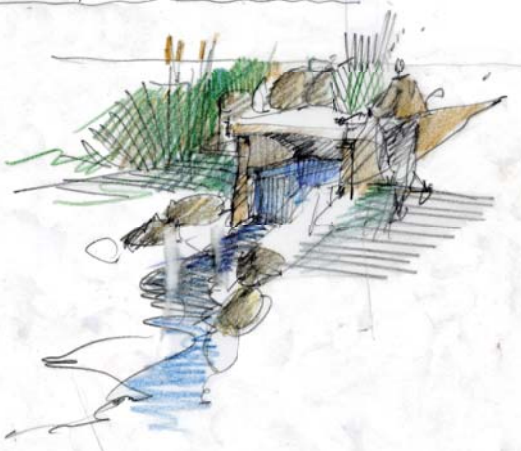


### *the shoreline*

The shoreline from Pritchard Island south to the mouth of the Cedar River is vital salmon habitat that has been severely degraded over the years by filling and armoring

To restore the sediment and vegetative cycles, which are a critical part of aquatic habitat, parcels along the shoreline and the adjacent slopes should be actively acquired.

Head Water



### *the hydrology*

Protect and daylight Mapes and Taylor Creeks.

Increase awareness of the water cycle by acquiring and celebrating the land around their headwaters.

Increase storm water infiltration within the street grid to regulate water entering the stream and alleviate the resulting riparian habitat damage.

When learning is approached as an ecosystem,  
everything is interconnected;  
mathematics is a living organism,  
physics is art, and  
poetry explains complex ideas.

## CURRICULUM GOALS

- Foster learning through curiosity
- Learn from the source whenever possible
- Promote community-based stewardship
- Develop critical and creative thinking skills
- Understand processes and functions
- Develop process and decision-making skills
- Understand core ideas within the context of 'Place'
- Understand a sense of 'Place' within context:
  - Local, regional, continental, universal

## CORE IDEAS

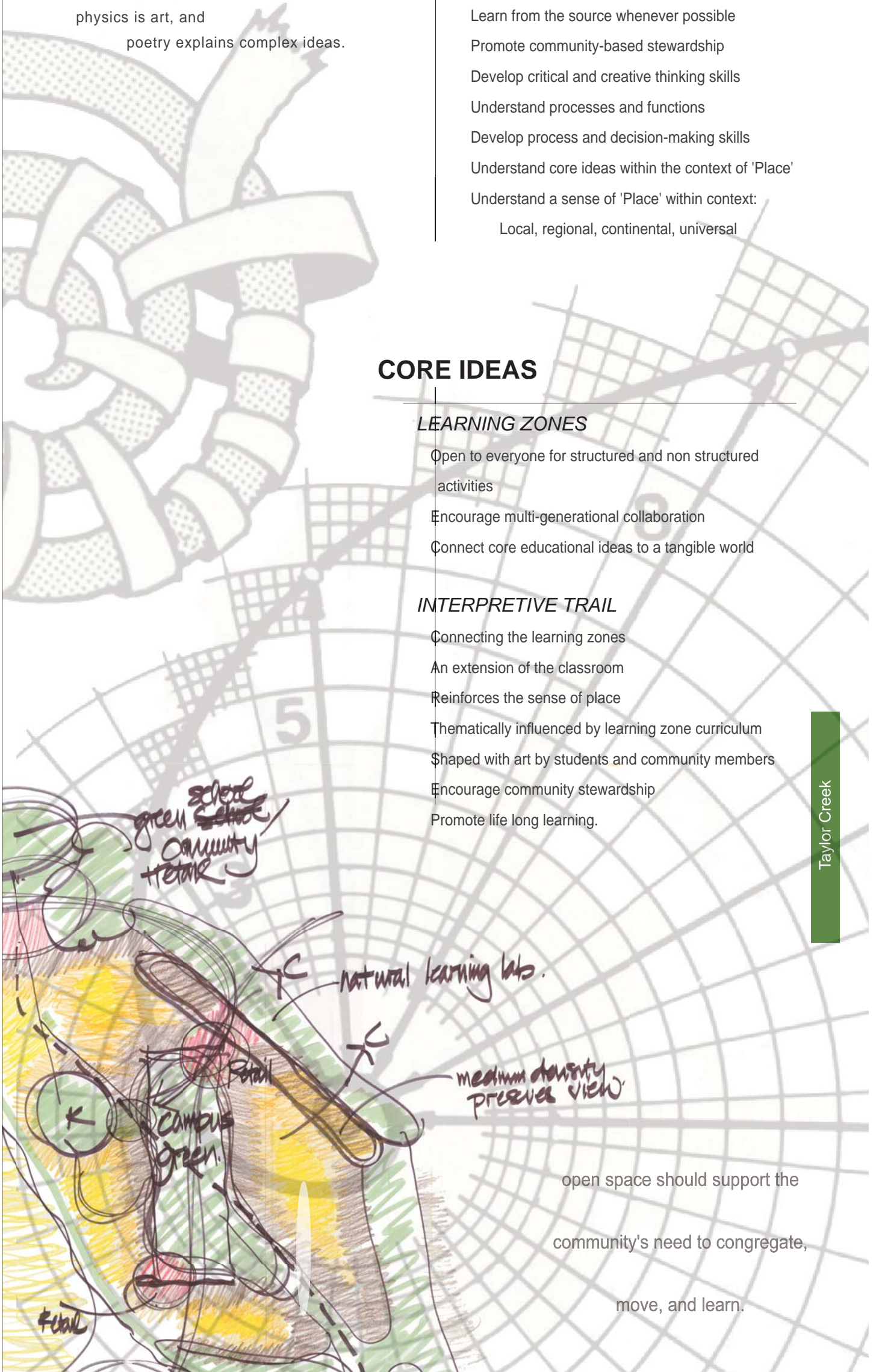
### LEARNING ZONES

- Open to everyone for structured and non structured activities
- Encourage multi-generational collaboration
- Connect core educational ideas to a tangible world

### INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

- Connecting the learning zones
- An extension of the classroom
- Reinforces the sense of place
- Thematically influenced by learning zone curriculum
- Shaped with art by students and community members
- Encourage community stewardship
- Promote life long learning.

Taylor Creek



open space should support the  
community's need to congregate,  
move, and learn.