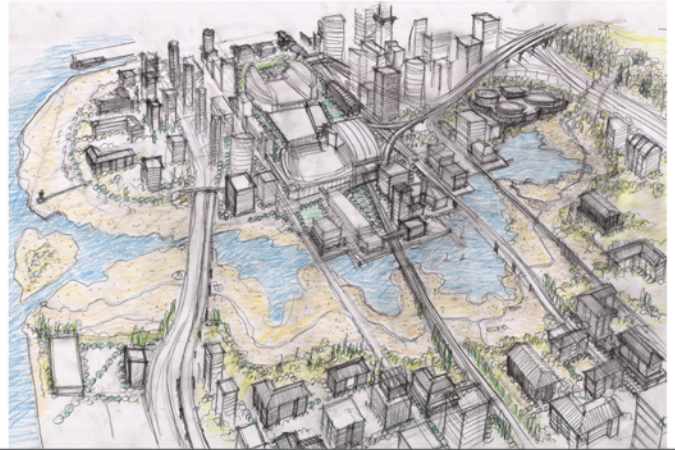




## urban waterfront - green spine and urban stage



OPEN SPACE SEATTLE 2100  
DOWNTOWN TEAM A  
BIRD'S EYE VIEW "GREEN & BLUE WEB; HABITAT WEAVE"



## urban lagoon

## green streets

### Concept Narrative Green and Blue Web - Habitat Weave

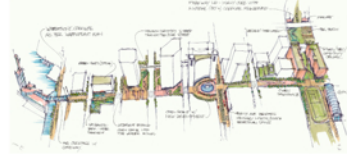
We accepted that by 2030 and even by 2100, Downtown Seattle will remain a vital urban center and that the urban street grid will not disappear. Our proposal is based on the notion of a web of existing and projected green open spaces, large and small, in addition to green boulevards and streets, running north-south, which are crossed by a series of east-west green boulevards and streets and by "blue streets," created by the capture of storm water. These would include smaller and larger water features and ponds and would be engineered to allow for water reuse and purification. There would also be a series of water catchment areas for purified water, occurring on the western edge. Other storm water would be drained into the Sound and thus would become "finger" into the Puget Sound, below the waterfront, as an amphibious water feature. The notion is to weave natural vegetation as well as water, storm drainage and water into the landscape of the city, while also incorporating the waterfront into the urban web of Downtown more closely. At the same time, important new conditions to the water and into the Downtown would be incorporated and enhanced.

In addition, we envisioned two long green spines. The western one is the continuous spine along the waterfront, with major nodes at the Seattle Art Museum, Olympic Sculpture Park, the waterfront and a newly created park and natural habitat in the northern portion of the Fair Ave site. Part of the north-south spine is the creation of the "vacuum tunnel" which could be used to create a natural phenomenon in the city - a "wind tunnel" - exemplified by the work of Seattle engineer R.H. Thompson - of moving large amounts of earth to create new and re-graded topographic basins with a gentle to the Hill of the Rain Forest Park. Other urban nodes along the green waterfront spine would be the Aquarium and the Victor Steinbrink Park. In lieu of the present seawall, a curving, sculptural wall in stone, which steps up in sections, would take into account sea-level changes. It would be engineered to slow the entire shoreline to be habitat-friendly.

The second spine involves the area along I-5. The structure of I-5 is currently not in the best condition. While it may remain in similar form to what it is now in 2030, by 2100, we suspect that it will be torn down or gone altogether or the level of Downtown Street, therefore, by 2100, the site of I-5 would become a large green park area. Sky-rail-wed connections would be created by the frequent green streets and "green-blue streets." Since the transportation coast for produce one likely to become a more and more service factor, we envision that within the new "Carried Park" and among many newly created Downtown green open spaces, there will be a large number of public "pockets." We also see a variety of additional green spaces on rooftops.

Another serious consideration is the Seattle Fault, which occurs in our area, roughly along Dearborn Avenue. The area in the vicinity of the fault will be devoted to low-density development / park area, since heavy building density would clearly be a hazard. At the same time, a variety of parks and open spaces will be designed as "habitable safety zones," depending on the possible source of the earthquake. As part of the sustainability goals and the goal to provide a variety of experience in Downtown, existing buildings of historic interest will be maintained amidst the "green blue" fabric of the city. Many will have been retrofitted to a standard that will allow them to withstand earthquakes as easily as more recent buildings.

We see Downtown Seattle as a place where social, economic, and environmental sustainability can be realized. We also see the Downtown of 2100 as part of a much larger and continuous web encompassing all of Seattle. Green streets and a continuous loop which also ties the Downtown to the rest of the city. A water bus service will be the Downtown to points along the Puget Sound and a similar service will allow "transport" across Lake Union. Our 20-year vision begins to put in place our major green boulevards, green and blue streets, as well as incremental changes to the waterfront, while the 2100 theme takes all of these much further, with the creation of an increasingly green Downtown, which incorporates new vegetation and fauna as well as a major green central park.



**Vision:** Recognizing the unique nature of downtown as a regional economic, social and transportation hub, the primary goals for our downtown plan are to support diversity and maintain flexibility in a resilient way.

**By diversity we mean:**

- Diversity in the types of open spaces
- Diversity of users
- Diversity of ecological habitats and functions
- Diversity of purposes

**By flexibility we mean:**

- Active participation by communities in the creation and stewardship of the sites is explicit
- Ability to respond to changing needs and unknown events
- An infrastructure that allows for changes over time
- An experimental approach with feedback loop through monitoring (perhaps benchmarked at the 20 year point)
- Integration of economic, social and ecological quality in the city with equidistant and balanced value attached to all of those
- Ecological function is built into the fabric of the city
- A space that can be used 24/7 (good sense of safety). Different uses at different times of day

**We will achieve this vision by:**

- Move to a more accessible open space model
- Creating opportunities for mobility that promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Creating open spaces that facilitates social interaction
- Creating a front-sloped environment, which includes places to sit down and play games
- Creating a balance between technology, ethic and environmental ethic, which are authentic to Seattle.
- Starting to blur what is open space
- Creating a sense of place
- Maintaining and enhancing cultural features and historic legacy
- Allowing for a balance of open and density
- Creating open spaces that allow for diverse and multiple uses
- Fostering community building
- Fosters economic vitality by making it a place people want to live
- Sufficient affordable housing for all income levels

*We have been charged with creating a bold open space plan with implementation strategies for Seattle's next 100 years, which will enhance the health and well-being of both our cultural and natural environments. This vision of a regenerative green infrastructure will serve to create a healthy, beautiful Seattle while maximizing our economic, social and ecological sustainability.*



LEGEND

WATER + DRAINAGE	GREEN ROOF	COMMUNITY	CIVIC SPACES	HABITAT	URBAN WATERFRONT HABITAT	TRANSPORTATION	BRIDGES
CREATED SHORELINE	WELLS	COMMUNITY CENTERS	SCHOOLS	NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE CENTERS	LIVING MACHINES AT CDO	GREEN STREET	ON STREET BICYCLE CORRIDOR
					GEOLOGIC MITIGATION ZONES	PEDESTRIAN CORRIDOR	

