

Lake Union: The Heart of the City

Vision Statement

The Lake Union Basin is the heart of Seattle with a vibrant urban waterfront that is accessible to all. A diversity of parks, habitat, walking trails, commercial and residential spaces create an interlinked network of functional communities. From shoreline to ridgeline the lake is physically and visually connected to all of its surrounding neighborhoods.

GOALS

TARGET GROWTH IN URBAN VILLAGES

- Increase density in targeted areas throughout the study area
- Continue to provide a variety of housing types

IMPROVE CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS

- Develop multimodal transportation systems that increase connections and access to open space
- Improve connections within and between neighborhoods
- Integrate open space with the systems of pedestrian, bicycle, and mass transit routes
- Build a streetcar to connect downtown to South Lake Union Lid 1-5 at the Pike and Pine Street area, connecting Capitol Hill with South Lake Union
- Support a SeaBus (passenger only ferry) which would connect South Lake Union to Fremont and UW

SUPPORT COMMUNITY WITH OPEN SPACE

- Create space for gathering and interaction, such as plazas, pea patches, parks, segments of broad commercial sidewalks, etc.
- Design open space that enhances community identity, serves as landmarks, and reflects local culture
- Enhance the quality of life by creating a more beautiful environment
- Serve the older and younger population and local demographics with connections to the outdoors

COMMONS FOR EVERYONE

- Provide accessible open space in underserved areas
- Distribute green space equitably among communities
- Provide neighborhood level, community level, and regional open spaces
- Reduce acreage consumed by the auto to provide more area for open space

CREATE A CITYWIDE OPEN SPACE NETWORK

- Develop a system of open space corridors or routes to connect neighborhood, community, and regional open space
- Create a "Green Zone" around the perimeter of Lake Union
- Facilitate pedestrian and bicycle travel throughout the open space network
- Use this network to unify cultural and ecological values, economic and natural resources, and recreational opportunities

INCREASE OPEN SPACE AREA

- Double the existing open space

IMPROVE AWARENESS OF LAKE UNION SUBBASIN

- Create more physical access to shoreline and provide for public use
- Protect and enhance view corridors

CREATE AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL FOOD GROWTH

- Support private and public urban agriculture
- Increase area dedicated to pea patches and other urban agriculture

DESIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Restore Lake Union so it can begin to function as a living and healthy lake watershed
- Improve the ecological function of existing and new open space
- Decentralize energy production and move toward resource self sufficiency
- Treat stormwater through natural systems within open space and right-of-ways and increase permeability to soils
- Create an interconnected system of green roofs
- Begin to daylight buried streams within the study area

ENHANCE THE LOCAL ECONOMY

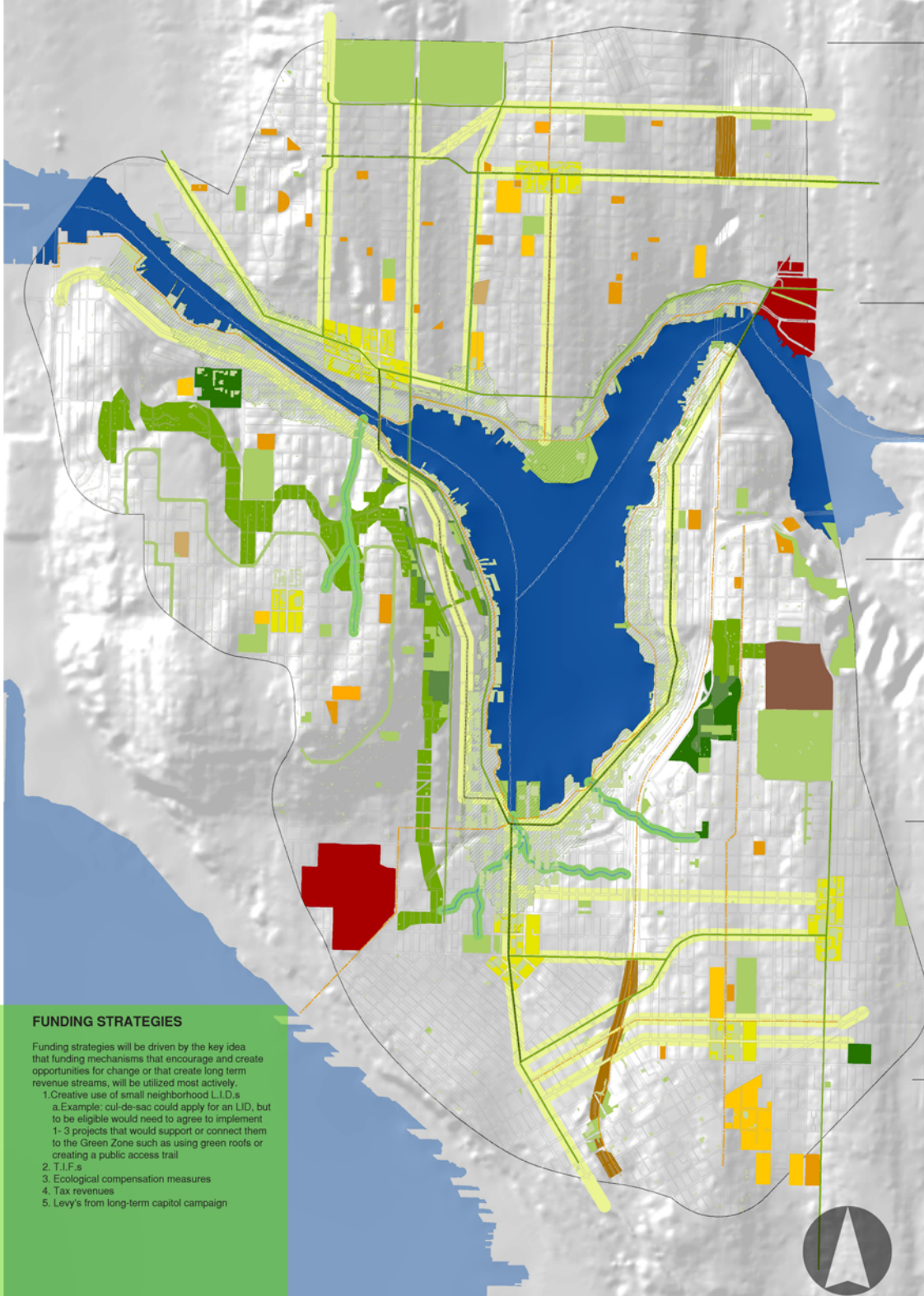
- Create improvements that are attractive to visitors and tourists in appropriate locations
- Provide open space as an amenity to local commercial districts, and local customers

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. Create developer incentives to build city infrastructure as part of developments. (Height for open space, green roofs, low income, etc.)
2. Rewrite cistern vs. water-lake legal definition to match runoff volume of natural conditions. (coordinate with WA DOE and State legislators)
3. Generate cash (taxes) by quit claim deeding unused ROW and/or selling unused properties to purchase key parcels. (open space, other key systems, or land in trust for open space)
4. Develop public/private joint venture partnerships.
5. Pursue private open space/uses. (Toll roads, toll sites, etc.)
6. Inventory all public lands and identify multiple use opportunities.
7. Perform a hard surface audit and identify which surfaces can be eliminated or resurfaced. (Grey to green)
8. Coordinate with Seattle School District to identify which properties have open space potential/value, including surplus properties.
9. Emphasize the water in zoning, ordinances, codes, and all plans.
10. Create zoning overlay of open space needs based on Dept. of Parks and Recreation Gap Analysis. Include public and private open space in the overlay. Include physical and visual access to Lake Union as an open

FUNDING STRATEGIES

- Funding strategies will be driven by the key idea that funding mechanisms that encourage and create opportunities for change or that create long term revenue streams, will be utilized most actively.
1. Creative use of small neighborhood L.I.D.s
a. Example: cul-de-sac could apply for an LID, but to be eligible would need to agree to implement 1-3 projects that would support or connect them to the Green Zone such as using green roofs or creating a public access trail
 2. T.I.F.s
 3. Ecological compensation measures
 4. Tax revenues
 5. Levy's from long-term capitol campaign



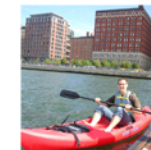
Urban



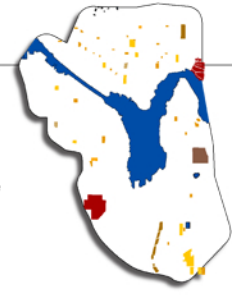
- Community Nodes
- Urban Corridors



Community



- Active Parks
- Playfields
- Passive Parks
- Farmers Markets
- Lidded Open Space
- Cemetery
- Civic Space
- Existing Parks



Habitat



- Stream Riparian Area
- Habitat Corridor
- Mini Woodlot
- Urban Waterfront Habitat
- Existing Green Belts



Water and Drainage



- Green Roofs
- Created Streams
- Daylighted Streams



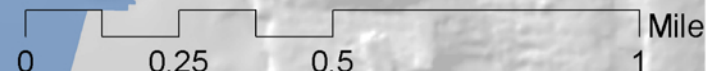
Transportation



- Street Car
- Water Taxi
- Pedestrian Corridor
- Designated Bicycle Corridor
- Green Streets



20 YEAR PLAN



LAKE UNION

TEAM A LEADERS: Rachael Watland, Andy Milton, and Jason Henry TEAM MEMBERS: Tom Berger, Gary Zak, Brent Ghastap, Genevieve Vayda, David Knight, Karen Bech, Guy Michaelson, Makie Suzuki, Jessie Chou, Kimberly Bowen, Erin Parker, Steve Haluschak, and Chris Towne
 TEAM B LEADERS: John Logan and Kristin Kiddall TEAM MEMBERS: Linda Frkuskas, Jeff Hepinstall, Wes Simmonds, Rich McDonald, Chris Gronbeck, Mike Ruby, Brian O'Sullivan, Susana Musi, Brian Ramey, and Art Tuttle
 STUDENT TEAM LEADERS: Dara O'Byrne and Garrett Devier

