Outside Citywide

DRAFT PROJECT FRAMEWORK

PARK SYSTEM AND POPULATION GROWTH SINCE 1960

Park Acres (in thousands)
Population (in hundred thousands)

Year

Population ●— Park Acres ●—
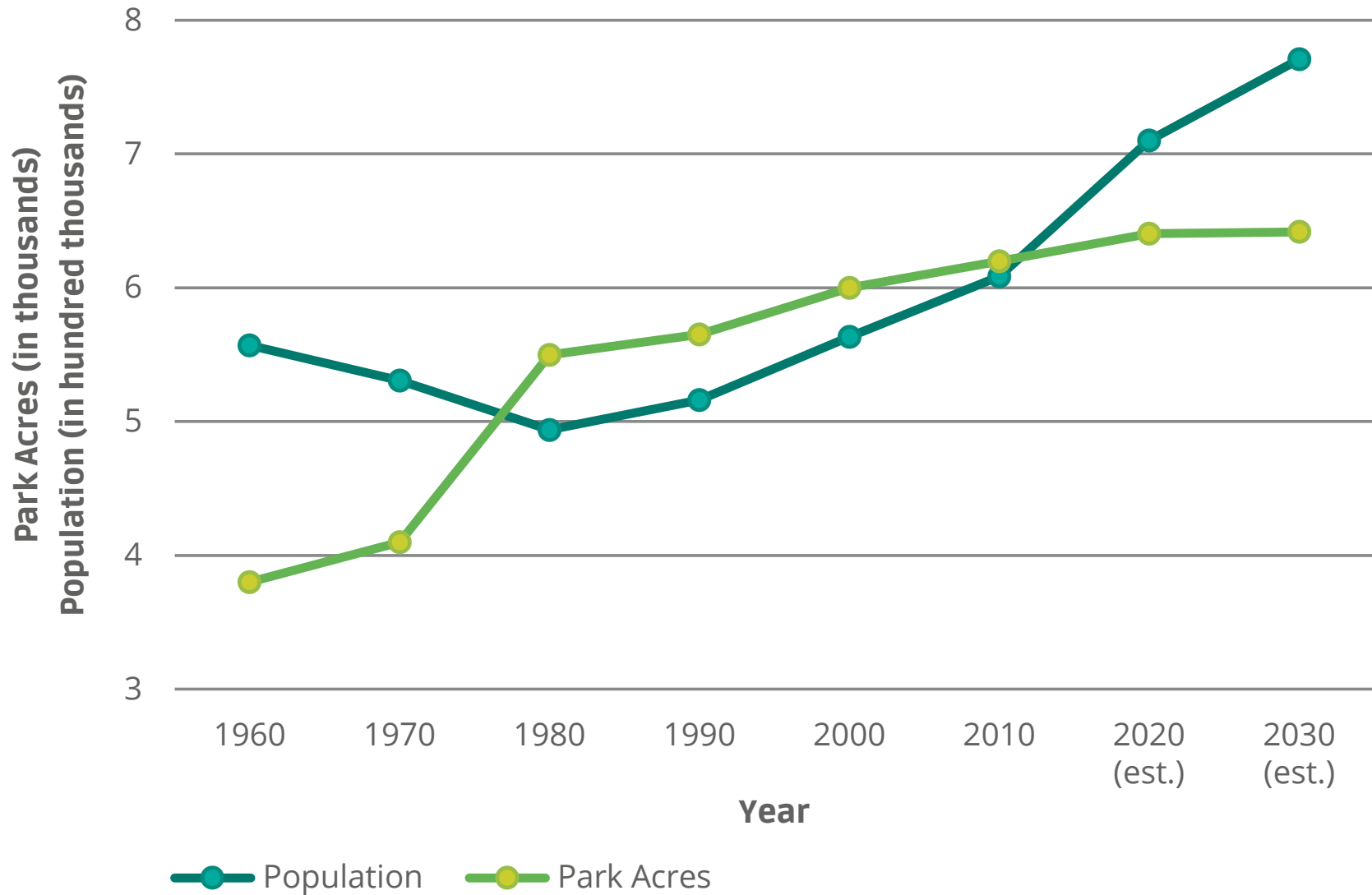
(Park acquisition can't keep pace with growth...)

SEATTLE'S PUBLIC SPACES

PUBLIC SPACES

- ■ Seattle Parks and Recreation
- ■ Campus green spaces
- ■ Golf courses and cemeteries
- ■ Port of Seattle and Army Corps of Engineers parks
- ■ Seattle Center
- ● Public schoolyards
- ● P-Patches
- ● Seattle Housing Authority parks
- ● Parklets, Streateries and Pavement to Parks
- ● SPU public space
- ● Privately Owned Public Space (POPS)

SHORELINE ACCESS

- ● Accessible shoreline street ends
- ● Boat launches and ramps

LINEAR PUBLIC SPACE

- — Regional Trail
- — Neighborhood Greenway
- — Green Street
- — Streetscape Concept Plan
- — Urban Marked Trail
- — Green stormwater infrastructure in the right of way
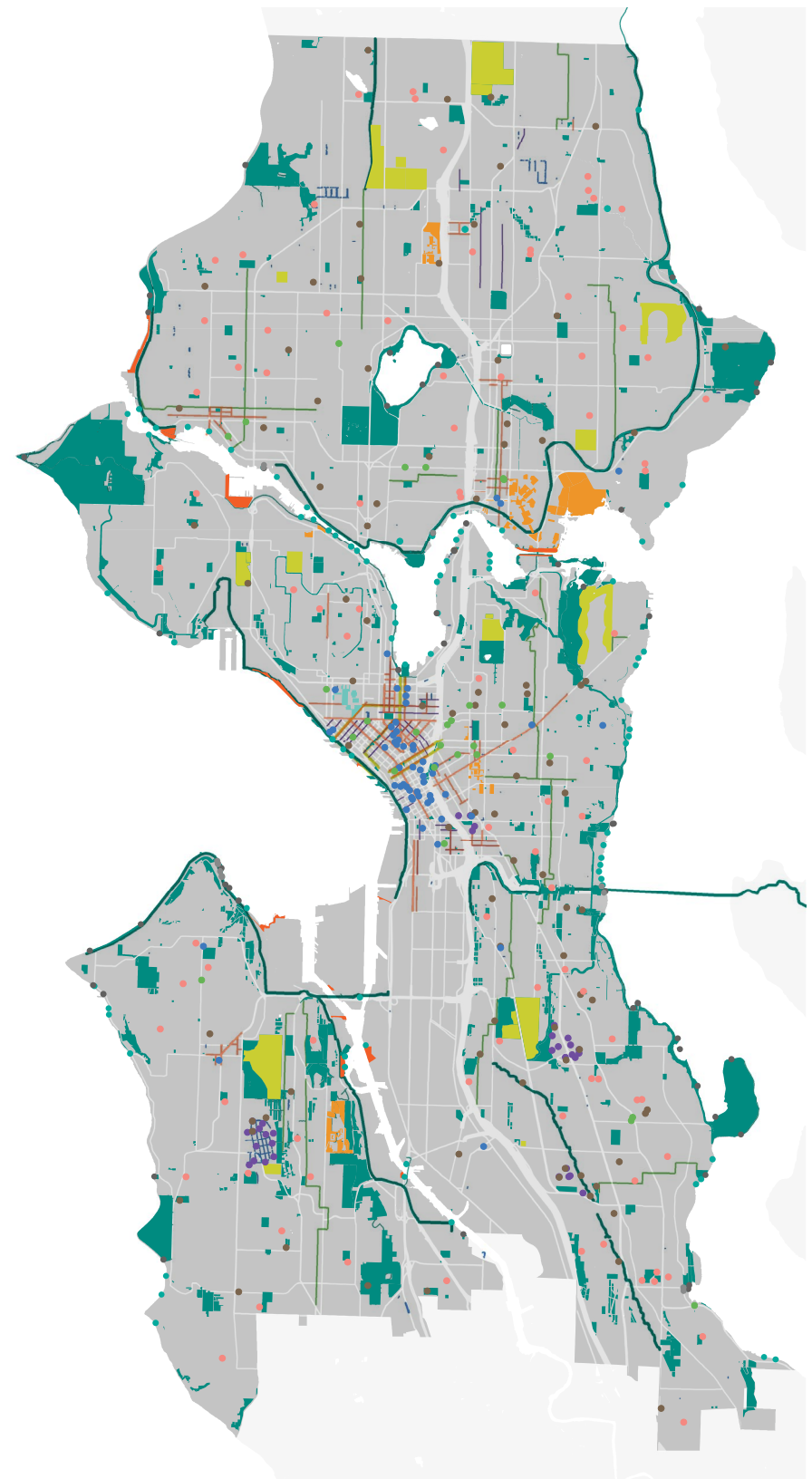
(The system is complicated & unclear, lacking alignment...)

How do we align so that **all public spaces, from forests and beaches to play streets and plazas, work together as an integrated whole**?

How do we **use non-traditional approaches to fill in public space gaps and improve function**, tailored to local needs?

3 KEY DRIVERS

RACIAL EQUITY

- Past City policies & investments have perpetuated disparities
- Public space can help build a more just future
- Decision-making must center leadership & knowledge of communities of color

GROWTH AND DENSITY

- Seattle can't keep up with growth through traditional parkland alone
- Particularly need new strategies for lively, multifunctional spaces in dense neighborhoods

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Extreme heat events, flooding, air pollution will all worsen
- Coordinated public space & green infrastructure can help manage the challenges

Working Group #4: NATURE IN THE CITY   8/29

① STRATEGIC DIRECTION ② EXAMPLE DESIRED OUTCOMES ③ POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATIONS ④ RSJI

① STRATEGIC DIRECTION
- "Maximum Shoreline for the people"
- Democratize views.
- Access to green belts + natural areas
  balance eco function w/ access (principles)
- Connect urban centers to big parks + habitat corridors
- Fix disparities: quality/quantity access to nature
- Design built space for beauty + flood risk, heat mitigation (#3?)
- Make everyday nature a right of children — start w/ underserved schools
- Connections to regional open space
- Fishable Duwamish (Native leadership) (#3)
- Nearby nature w/ affordable housing policy + funding (renters, broadly?)
- Community power in decision-making
- Shoreline/forest restoration

② EXAMPLE DESIRED OUTCOMES
- Zero tolerance for shoreline encroachment
- Shoreline access maps
- Playground adjacent to green belt (chesty)
- Green jobs, access to employment
- New types of shoreline access compatible w/ industry (who benefits?)
- Beef up GSP, green belts
- Fix interdept. restoration + stewardship barriers
- More resources for tree ambassadors
- Build floodable spaces
- Focused tree planting spray parks, shade structures
- Green schoolyards (led by foundations)

③ POTENTIAL DEMONSTRATIONS
- West Seattle green belt — community-led work — arts & education
- Work w/ ID to improve heat resilience (ST)
- Northgate TOD affordable housing + nature
- Little Brook creek restoration (→ to the lake)(?)
- Rainier Beach connections
- SODO zoning changes
- Floodable public space
- District scale drainage, natural areas (MHA expansion)
- Rooftop spaces for people + pollinators
- Safe Routes to Parks

④ RSJI
- How do we define "good" nature?
- (see blue highlights)
- Pair improvements w/ (not public space size) equitable dev. strategies
- Leadership of initiatives from communities of color
- LOOK AT "PUSH BUFFALO" MODEL FOR ANTI-DISPLACEMENT (?)

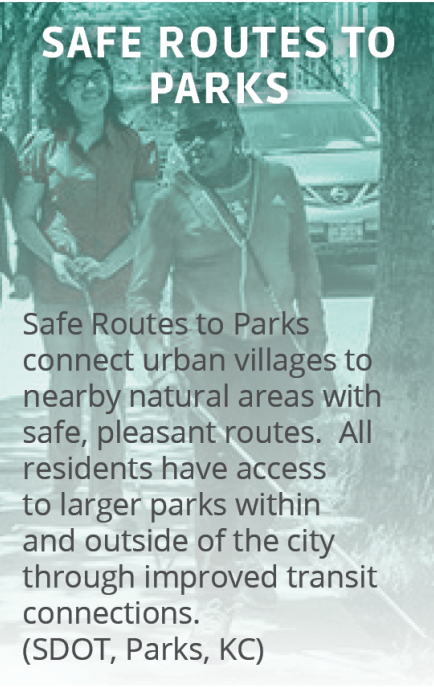# CONNECT PEOPLE + NATURE

OUTCOMES

Race Does Not Predict Health.

Outside Invites.

People, Shorelines, + Nature Connect.

CONNECT PEOPLE + NATURE

SAFE ROUTES TO PARKS

Safe Routes to Parks connect urban villages to nearby natural areas with safe, pleasant routes. All residents have access to larger parks within and outside of the city through improved transit connections.
(SDOT, Parks, KC)

PUBLIC, CONNECTED SHORELINES

New acquisitions and connections so every Seattleite has easy access to shorelines, creeks, and viewpoints.
(Parks, SDOT, SPU)

GREEN SCHOOLYARDS

Green schoolyards provide natural play and learning opportunities.
(SPU, DON, Parks, SPS)

ENHANCED GREENBELTS

Restored, accessible greenbelts become valued community open space.
(OSE, Parks, SPU)

LANDSCAPES FOR HEALTH

Targeted investments in trees, trails, and recreation are informed by public health research to maximize benefits for vulnerable populations.
(OSE, SDOT, SPU)

GARDENING + ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Gardens provide access to affordable, healthy, culturally-appropriate food and job opportunities in neighborhoods that are currently food insecure.
(DON, Parks)

HABITAT QUALITY + CONNECTIVITY

Habitat corridors and pollinator pathways connect natural areas and support urban wildlife.
(OSE, SDOT)

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY CO-OWNERSHIP

OUTCOMES

Community Activates, Co-Creates, + Stewards.

Public Spaces + Small Businesses Support One Another.

Partners Have Resources + Power.

CULTIVATE COMMUNITY CO-OWNERSHIP
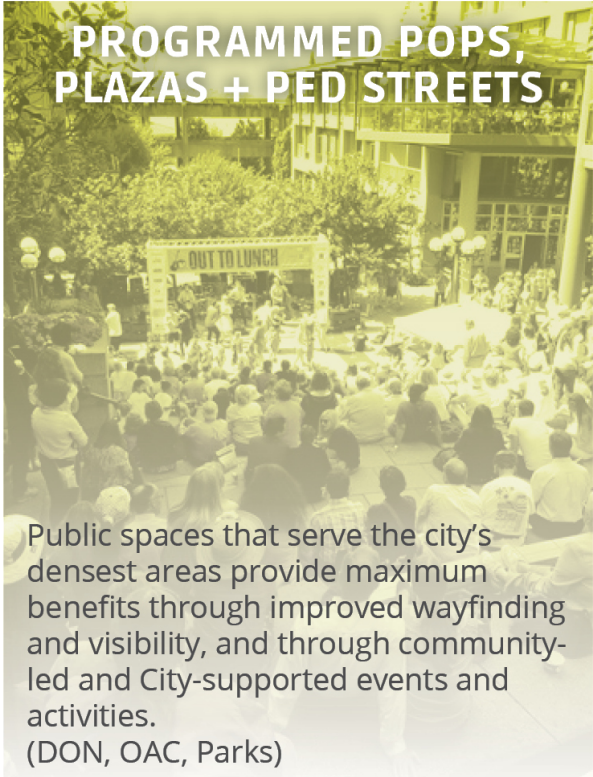
COMMUNITY-LED PUBLIC SPACE PLANS

Communities are informed and empowered to develop neighborhood-specific public space plans - partnering with the City and local organizations.
(Parks, OPCD, DON)

GREEN CAREERS

Youth of color and residents with limited opportunities are trained, employed and connected to career pathways through the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of public space and green infrastructure.
(DON, OED, Parks, SPU)

PROGRAMMED POPS, PLAZAS + PED STREETS

Public spaces that serve the city's densest areas provide maximum benefits through improved wayfinding and visibility, and through community-led and City-supported events and activities.
(DON, OAC, Parks)

COMMUNITY COHESION + EXPRESSION

Public space provides opportunities for residents to gather, meet, organize, and express themselves.
(Parks, OCR, DON)

CULTURE + HERITAGE

Indigenous Peoples, Communities of Color, immigrants and refugees, and the organizations they lead are funded, supported, and empowered to design and activate public space.
(DON, OSE, OAC, OIRA, Parks, SPU)

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

New policies support local and minority-owned business in parks. Low-income and homeless people can participate through free and subsidized opportunities.
(OED, SPR)

INTEGRATE PUBLIC SPACE + INFRASTRUCTURE

OUTCOMES

Public Space is Infrastructure.

Infrastructure is Public Space.

Our Investments Deliver Climate Justice.

INTEGRATE PUBLIC SPACE + INFRASTRUCTURE

LIVING WITH WATER: FLOODABLE TRAILS + PUBLIC SPACE

Public spaces improve climate resilience by storing flood waters during storm events.
(SPU, Parks, OSE)

DISTRICT DRAINAGE

Build drainage and stormwater facilities at the neighborhood scale, doubling as usable public space.
(SPU)

PARK EDGES

Green and/or pedestrian streets along park edges enhance the usability, activation, and benefits of both spaces.
(SDOT, Parks)

ACTIVE, GREEN STREETS

Streets serve as public space in dense and park-poor neighborhoods and improve environmental function and pedestrian experience with trees, landscaping, and places to linger.
(SDOT, SPU)

HEAT MITIGATION

Streets and public spaces provide canopy, vegetation, water features, and other elements that reduce the impacts of the urban heat island.
(OSE, Parks, SPU)

PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION

Green stormwater infrastructure improves people's experience of parks and public space while slowing, storing and cleaning stormwater.
(SPU, Parks, OSE)

SEA LEVEL RISE PROTECTION

The City proactively builds resilient shorelines to protect against sea level rise impacts through strategic acquisitions and measures that provide public access to the water.
(OSE, Parks, SPU)

3 THREADS OF WORK

PLAN

Articulate our community's vision and define a shared action plan for achieving it.

Background Report
Inventory of existing places and programs, synthesis of public input

CRAFT A VISION + PLAN

50-Year Vision + 5-year Action Plan
Adopted by Council, endorsed by partners

DEFINE SHARED PRIORITIES

New Decision-Making Tools
Prioritization maps and matrices; criteria for project selection

PARTNER

Develop new and stronger collaboration structures and practices, **within the City and with external partners.**

WORK THROUGH BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION

City Teams + Toolkits
Maintenance agreements, aligned budget process...

CREATE NEW PLATFORMS FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Partnership Structures + Funding
Cross-departmental + cross-sector

ACT

Groundtruth new strategies + typologies in current projects, and achieve near-term outcomes.

TAKE EARLY ACTIONS, PARTNERING WITH EXISTING PROJECTS

Duwamish, Mt. Baker, Delridge, Downtown, Lake City....

A TRANSFORMED PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

guided by
A SHARED VISION

financed by
INTEGRATED RESOURCES

and co-created through
COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURES