

“Community Seeds”

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Urban Design

ABSTRACT

As an extension to the undergrad analysis and search of a site location for the World Relief Seattle community garden, this project encapsulates a variety of urban interventions built around sustainability and resilient communities. By taking the results of the feasibility study, I chose a site that offered benefits for the community, incoming refugees, and the environment. By overlapping the WRS community garden programming with the King County SCAP goals, I was able to increase ecological impact while also providing WRS with a community garden framework that aligns with their mission of envisioning “every refugee and immigrant welcomed by community, rooted in community, and empowered for community”. Questions that guided this design include, “What other community and urban interventions can support incoming refugees”, “How can a community garden best benefit on an urban scale”, “how can design guide innovations for community and environmental constraints”, and “how can we create the biggest impact beyond the parcel of the community garden to benefit the ecosystem and create climate actions?”.



Figure: Community Garden Yields from WRS

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to identify a site location for the World Relief Seattle (WRS) Community Garden, while also taking into account the Strategic Climate Action Plan of Seattle (SCAP). In addition to creating a feasibility study that provides site location options for WRS, I aim to enhance the urban realm, challenge the normative status quo of the economy through providing sharing infrastructure, while aligning with the larger metropolitan climate action goals and plans. Immigration and asylum seeking is a global phenomenon, and provides opportunity to expand and enhance urban spaces to make incoming residents more welcome, and a part of the community.



For over 75 years, across **100 countries**, we've been connecting people like you to the world's greatest needs—extending your compassion to millions of suffering men, women and children. Together we're creating change that lasts—today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results came in the form of design proposals that address a site location for the client, and a framework that will benefit the community and natural environment of Kent. Each design proposal includes a unique and innovative way to think about developments that support the current community, foster place making for incoming asylum seekers, while also incorporating climate resiliency measures. For my proposal, I focus heavily on creating community infrastructure. Creating a density of community activities and services through the built environment creates the opportunity for

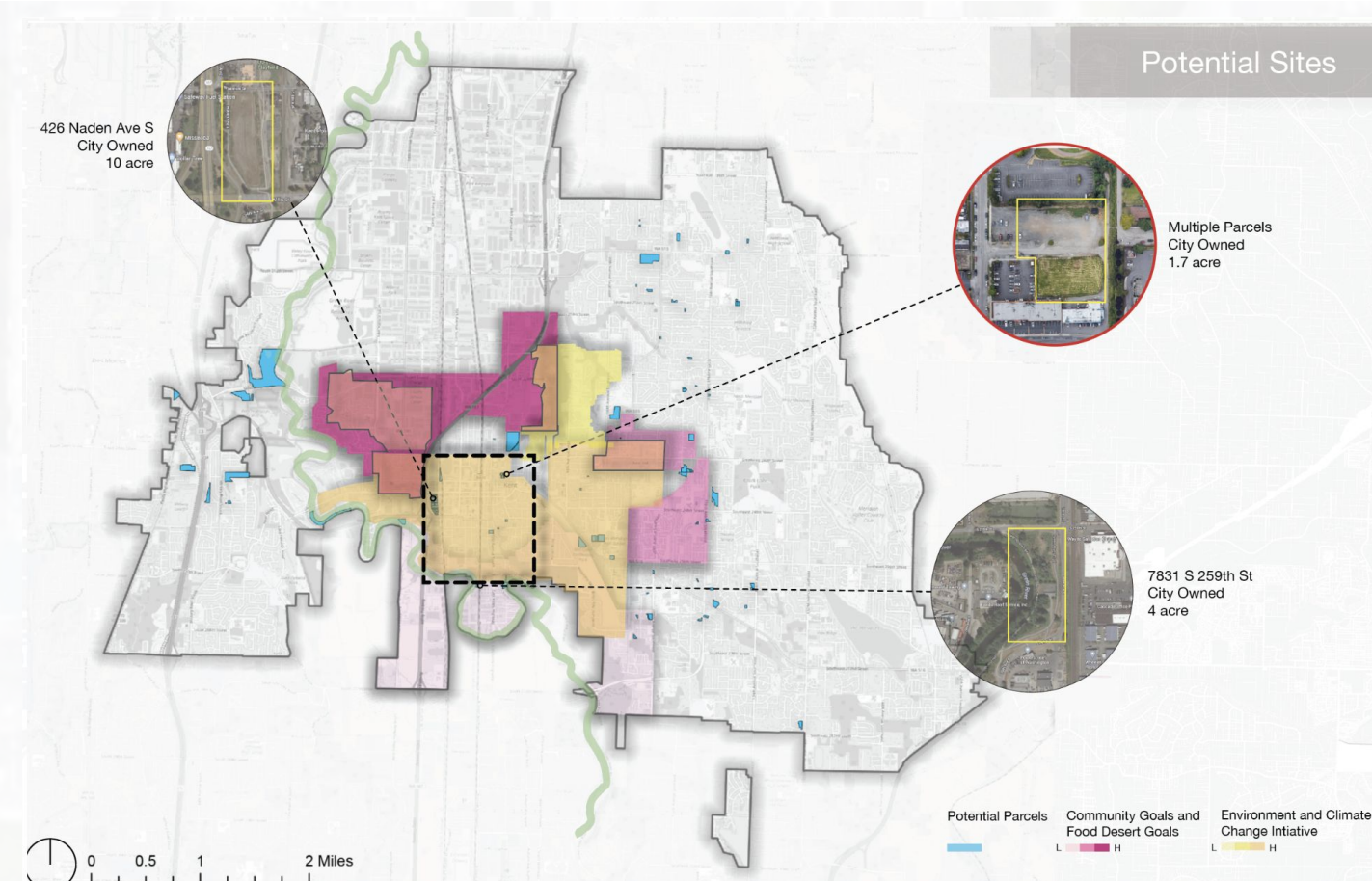


Figure: Feasibility Study and Strategic Framework

PROPOSED SOLUTION/RECOMMENDATIONS

My proposed solutions are derived from looking beyond aesthetics and influencing the built environment to foster community, entrepreneurship, and ultimately a place that connects people to nature in a resilient way. I first approach the need for building skills and community, as well as entrepreneurial opportunities, through sharing and cooperative infrastructure that will aim to support and expand then built environments experience, which in turn will effect lived experience. Access to community resources will become the foundation of community building, as an extension to the community garden. In addition, I have used a variety of water capture and flood mitigation strategies to ensure climate impacts do not affect marginalized groups of people in need, and continue to function as the weather extremes increase. I overlap play spaces with flood mitigation strategies to maximize on development impact, as well as begin to incorporate more biophilic components to the site. Biophilic design strategies are implemented the t for the benefit of the environment, the community, and the end users mental health. Expanding tree canopy and green spaces increase access to nature, which in turn will play a vital role in the experience of the space, and creating placemaking. Incoming refugees will benefit from natural spaces in a variety of ways, with the hope that they may find solitude in their new homes. Last, I believe by incorporating affordable housing within the development will expand the opportunities for low-income families, and WRS clients, to have an opportunity to live in a walkable neighborhood, that mitigates the need for a vehicle. This in turn will create circumstance where emissions can be lowered due to the decreased need to drive for residents.

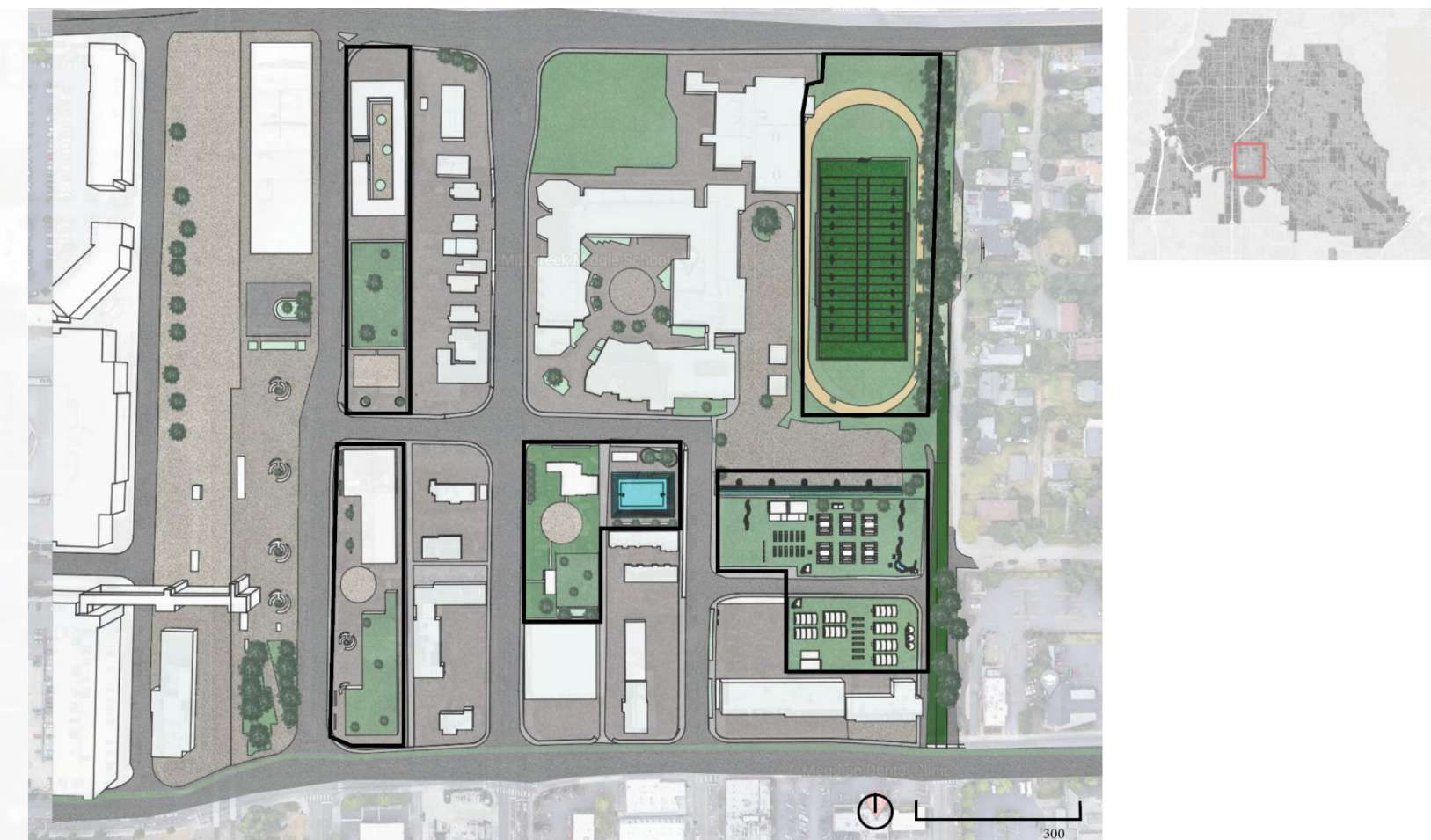


Figure: Proposed Site Plan



Figure: Conceptual Design

METHOD(S)

First steps in looking at potential sites included a strategic framework that overlaid multidimensional analysis in order to go beyond meeting the clients criteria. In order to do so, we analyzed the city of Kent through researching geodata on the area. Categories explored and emphasized include ecological conditions (susceptibility, vulnerability, flood risks, habitats, tree canopy coverage, and basin conditions), social conditions (access to services, food desserts, demographics, economic demographics, income demographics, and environmental justice aspects relating access to green space), and mobility (transportation networks and pedestrian networks, street and sidewalk analysis, and street condition and crash reports). By combining these analysis with the World Relief Seattle criteria, we are able to maximize benefits of a new proposal for the community. In addition, by looking at the current context of the city, we can understand and research how to incorporate supporting infrastructure for incoming refugees and asylum seekers.

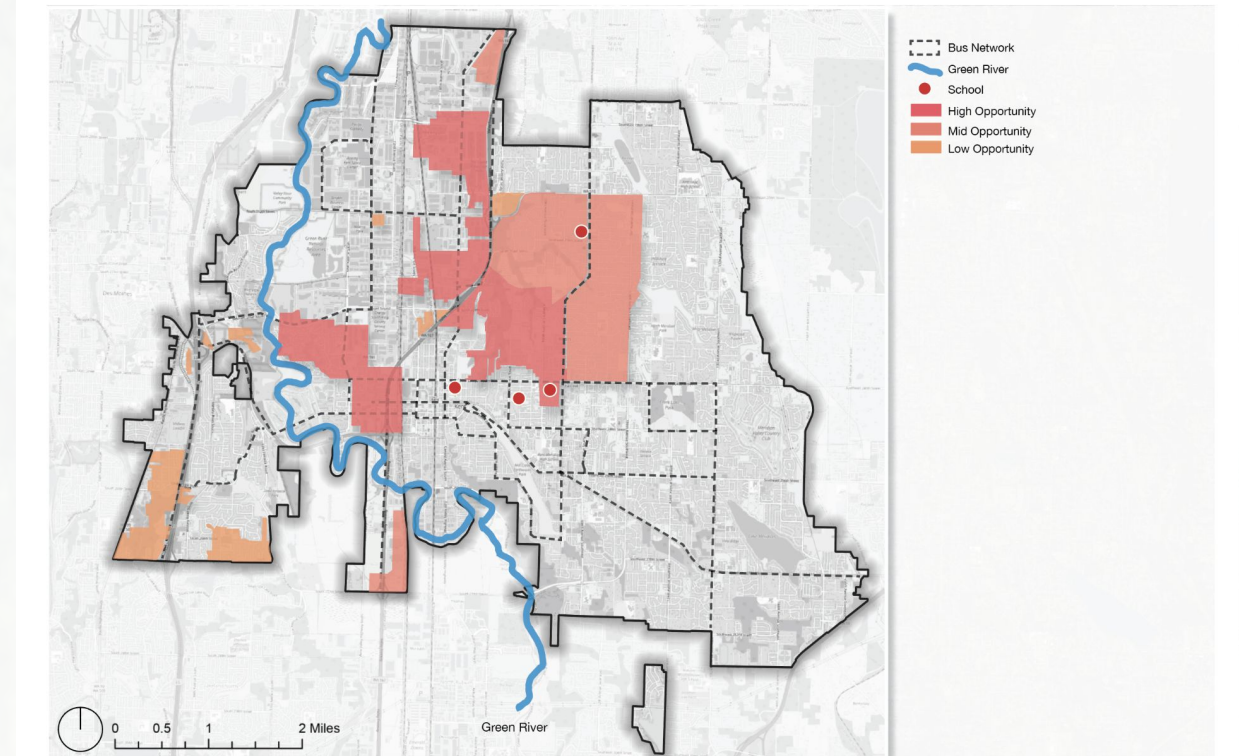


Figure: Multidimensional Analysis

CONCLUSIONS

By taking a multidimensional approach in analysis, we can move forward to enhancing the urban realm in a meaningful way. My personal project focuses on the innovation of implementing more cooperative and sharing infrastructure to meet needs og incoming refugees and asylum seekers. Combining infrastructure with such things like community gardens, not only provide end users with food security and access to culturally important food, but can also be a catalyst for climate action strategies that aim to address and mitigate climate change effects. Last, sharing infrastructure provides space to create connections, build community, network, and gain skill training and knowledge, which will in turn be the foundation of placemaking.

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