

4 concepts and their
SYNTHESIS
a convenience truth

5.0

Concept 1
Interconnected Places:

Use the framework of our arterials to both connect and distinguish urban places

Vancouver's existing urban structure, based on the original streetcar city pattern, is a gift. This rational grid provides an armature for connectivity, proximity and immediacy. While simple in its orientation and spacing, the grid allows for distinctive opportunities for compact living across the city. The grid framework can accommodate a doubling of people and jobs, while enhancing the "signature of place" in our city. In this way, life in the city becomes more convenient as it becomes more sustainable - everything is much closer at hand within much more diverse and complete neighbourhoods. As Vancouver adds population and jobs it creates a "city of connected yet distinct neighbourhoods".

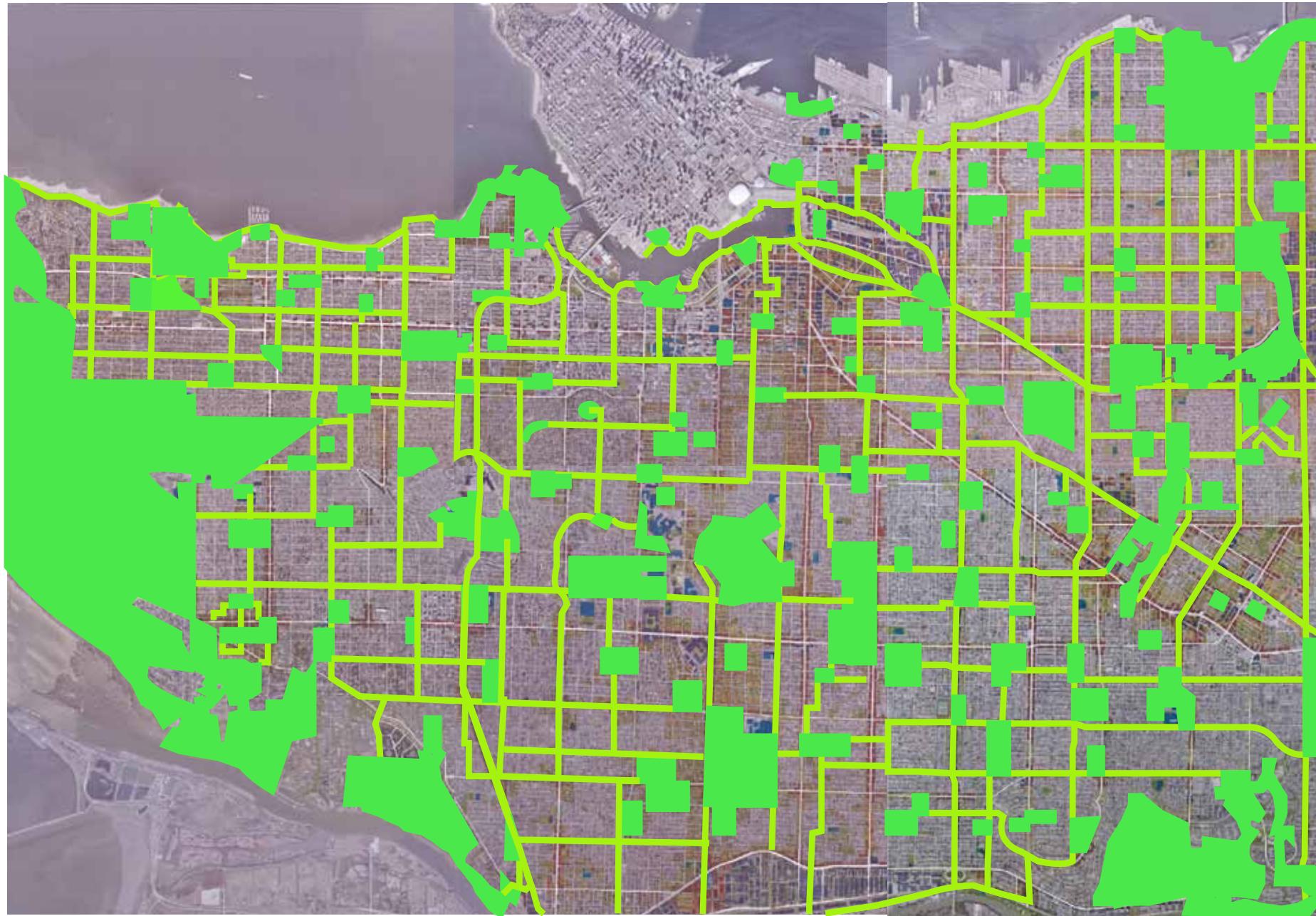


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5.1

Concept 2
Strategic Green Jobs:
Locate and integrate thousands of
new green jobs.

Our prevailing urban industrial lands enjoy immediate access to water and rail services. Like the urban grid structure, these lands are a gift. Vancouver's pattern of large, contiguous employment areas connected to the arterial grid and interwoven with dramatic natural features, will strategically position our city for green economy competitiveness. This plan celebrates this opportunity and also introduces new "smart jobs zones" in proximity to the airport and the University of British Columbia. This concept brings green jobs 'close to home' for Vancouverites.



Concept 3

A Green Grid:

An environmental network equal to the transportation network.

Building on the achievement of Vancouver's distinctive greenways, this plan concept expands the idea by interconnecting all parks, schools, natural features and local food opportunities through a system of "green streets". This simple, and easily implementable strategy, is actually not new. The original streetcar city anticipated this idea when schools and parks were initially assigned locations generally equidistant within the hearts of residential districts. It will require strategically located streets be re-purposed for green and social functions. Creating green streets will help build social capital through participatory involvement at the block scale while at the same time creating continuity throughout the city.



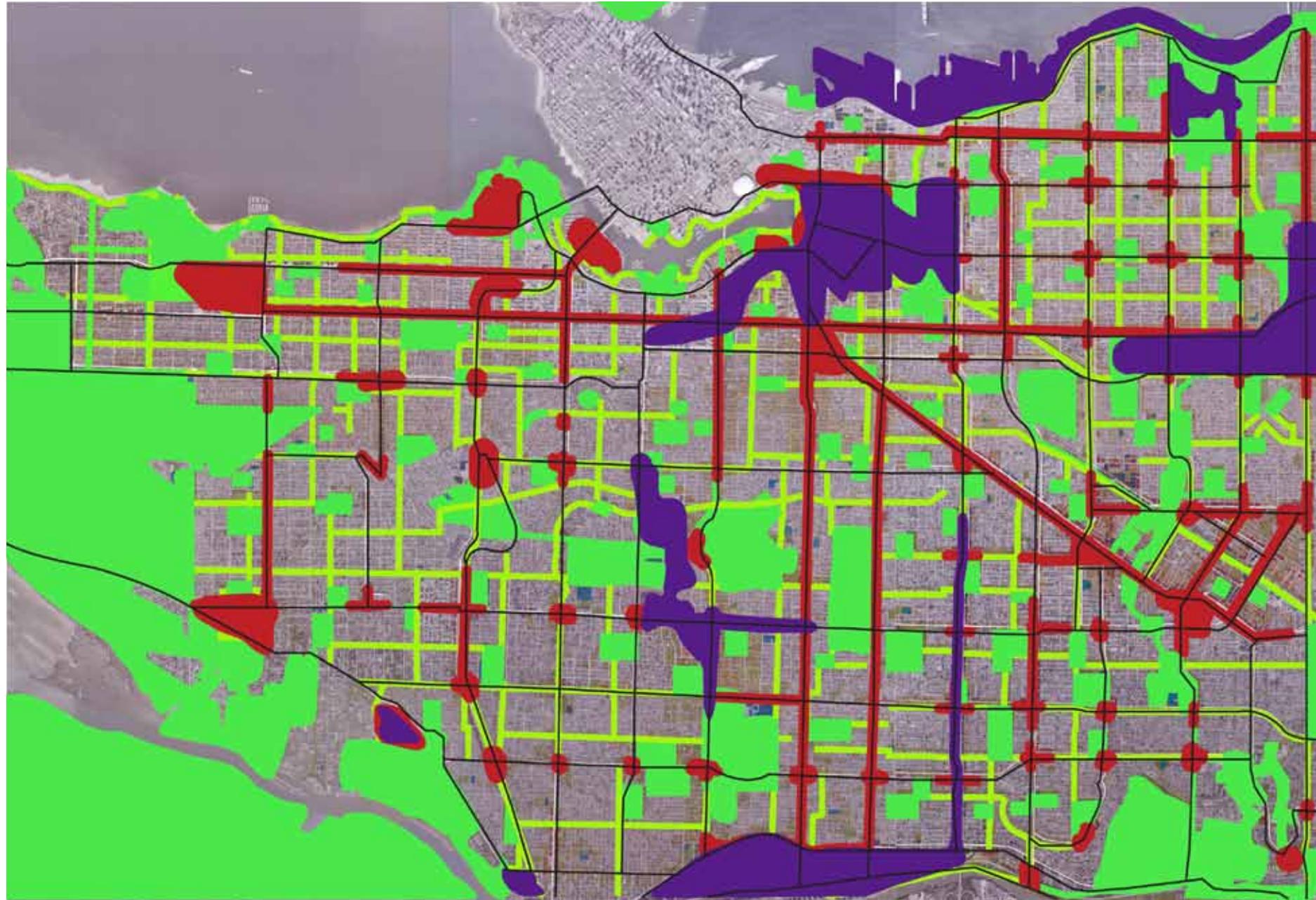
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Concept 4
Continuous Habitat:

A major new system of accessible natural areas and parks in underserved districts.

We are a city in nature with continuous water adjacency on three sides. Given this gift, we have a responsibility to demonstrate best practices for the creation of new habitat towards the enhancement of biodiversity in an urban setting. Our plan declares that this can be done! Our concept highlights zones of latent opportunity where connected networks of natural areas and parks could be restored, expanded, and linked. We recommend the commissioning of required technical work to more clearly identify and implement these critical locations involving additional stream daylighting, augmented by more practical green streets centered on continuous bio-swales. The result of this initiative will be the creation of a world class network of new, revived, and expanded green amenity features in underserved neighbourhoods.



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5.4

Synthesis. Vancouver 2050:
A Convenience Truth

The synthesis of these four simple ideas is an elegant and complex, yet clearly implementable plan framework. It will accommodate a doubling of our population while achieving an 80% reduction in GHG production. We have anticipated an aging population in our work and have accommodated this shift through providing thousands of age-appropriate units in highly accessible and convenient locations. We have exploited latent opportunities for ecological restoration to create a new interconnected green framework "signature" for under-served parts of the city. We have more evenly distributed work places so they will be closer to homes and synergize with other uses. The tens of billions of dollars of new investment represented here provides the leverage to insure affordability goals are met and that enough capital is generated to fund new public amenities in measure with population growth and demographic change. In short, the plan shows a way to save the planet by making our city more convenient; a more convenient city within which to move, to shop, to work, and to raise a family - all the while reducing our environmental footprint. The Greenest City truly is the Convenient City.