



# Sea2City

DESIGN  
CHALLENGE

**RISE  
TO  
THE  
CHALLENGE**



CITY OF  
VANCOUVER

COASTAL  
ADAPTATION

# Today's Agenda

## The Big Picture

Climate Change and Sea Level Rise  
False Creek and Coastal Flooding

## Vancouver Coastal Adaptation Plan

Past Work  
Community Values  
Planning and Design Principles

## Sea2City Design Challenge

Overview  
Challenge Sites  
Process





# Polling Questions 1 - 5





# What's the Challenge?

Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding





# Climate Change and Coastal Flooding

- Coastal cities around the world are facing similar challenges of sea level rise
- Rising global temperatures cause ice to melt and ocean water to expand
- More frequent and severe storm events add to the challenge





# Temperature Anomalies by Country Years 1880 - 2017

## 1880



Data Source:  
NASA GISS, GISTEMP Land-Ocean Temperature Index (LOTI), ERSSTv5, 1200km smoothing  
<https://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/>  
Average of monthly temperature anomalies. GISTEMP base period 1951–1980.

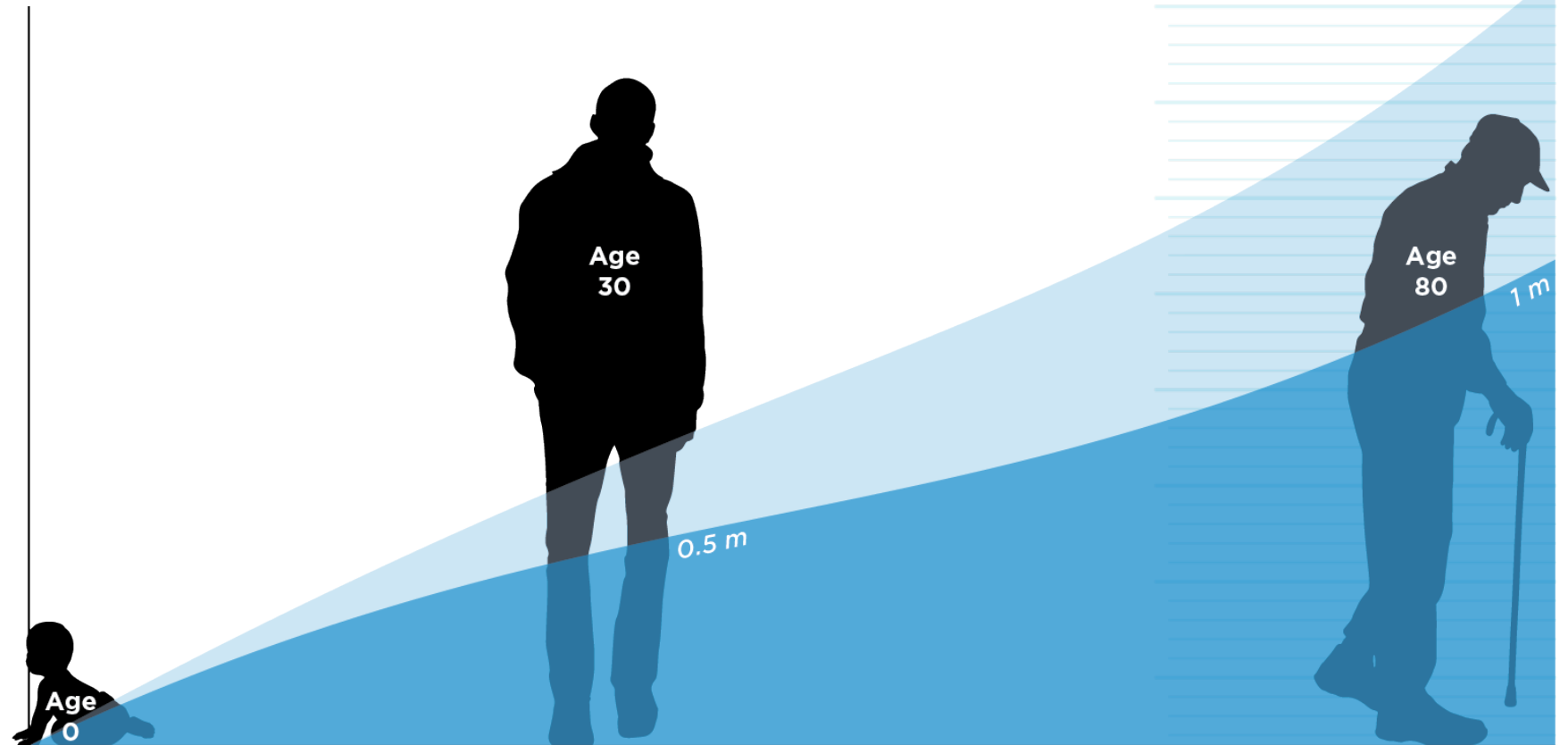
Video license: CC-BY-4.0  
Antti Lipponen (@anttilip)



# Sea Level Rise in BC

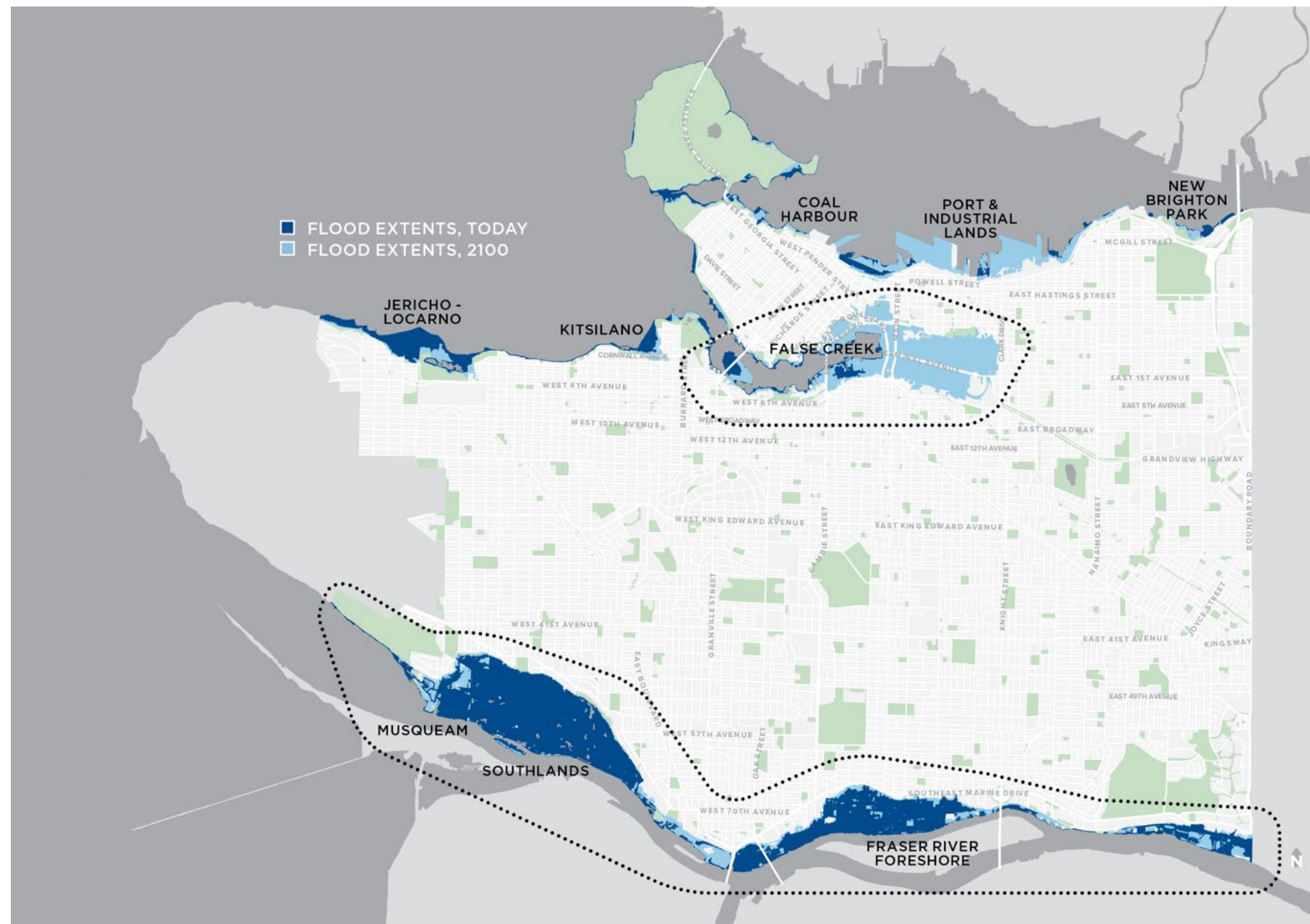
## BC guidelines:

- Half a meter of sea level rise over next 30 years
- At least one meter over next 80 years



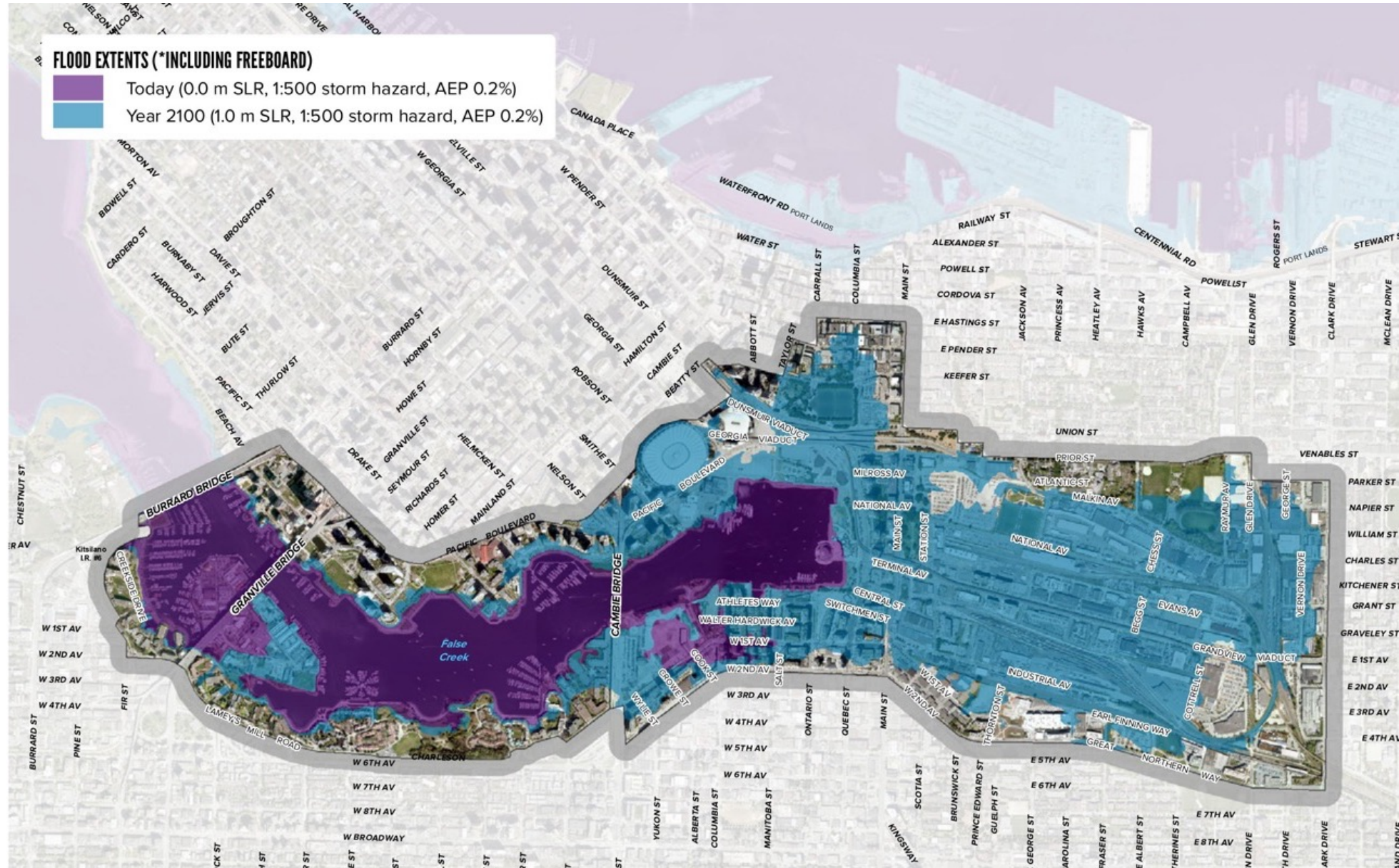


# Vancouver's Coastal Floodplains





# False Creek Flood Extents





# False Creek Coastal Flooding



High Tide Events



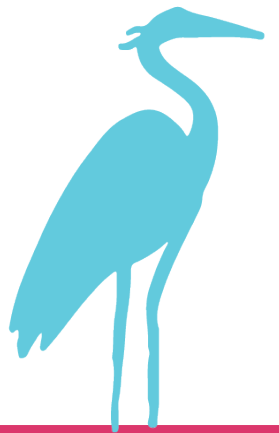
Storm Surge and Waves



Sea Level Rise



"Design Event" flooding



# Latest IPCC Report on Climate Change:

## Human-caused

- “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land.”

## It's going to get worse

- Temperature increases and sea level rise is “locked in” at least the next 30 years

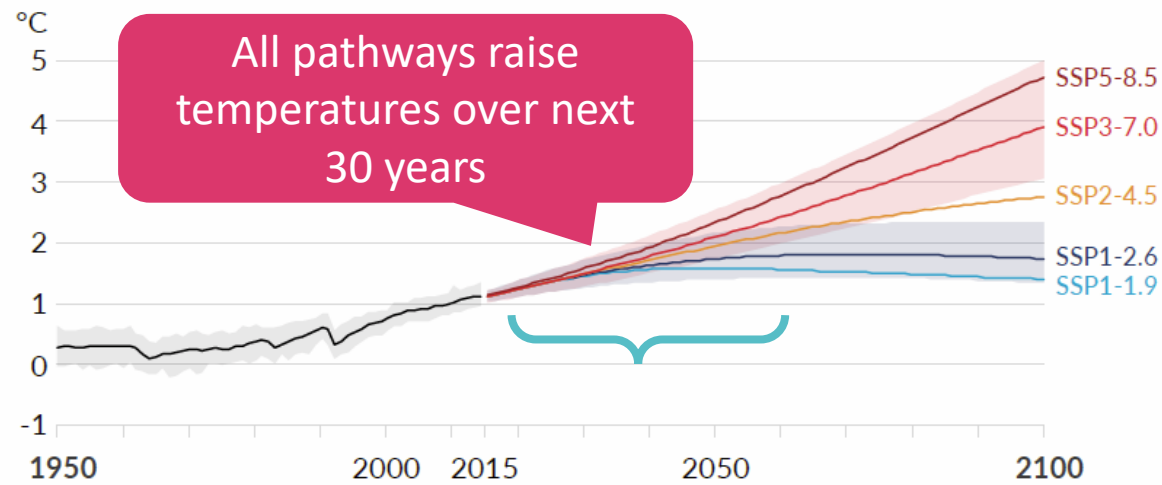
## There's still hope and opportunity

- We are still in the window to avoid 2.0+ degrees
- Vancouver is reducing GHGs and preparing for unavoidable changes

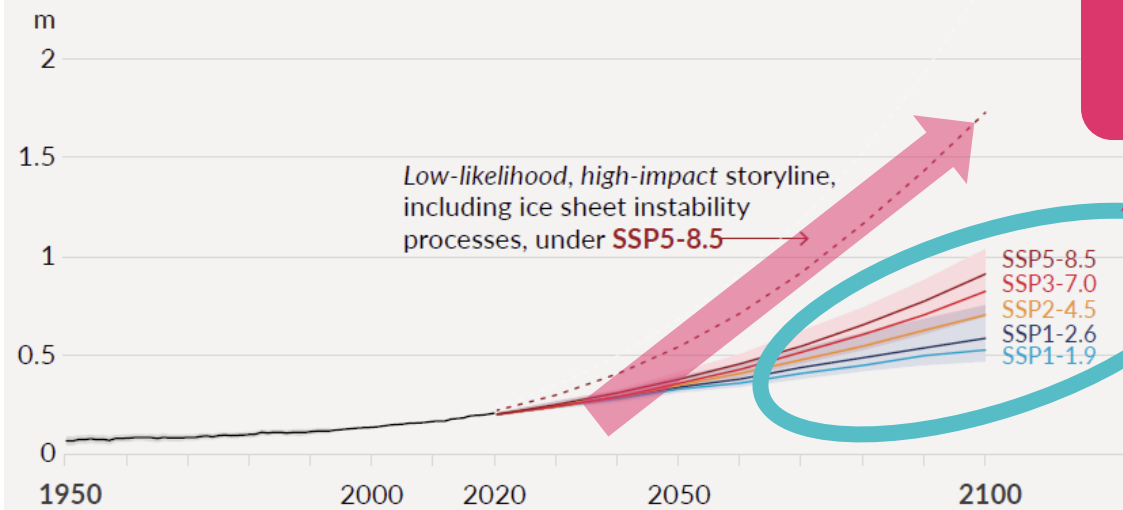




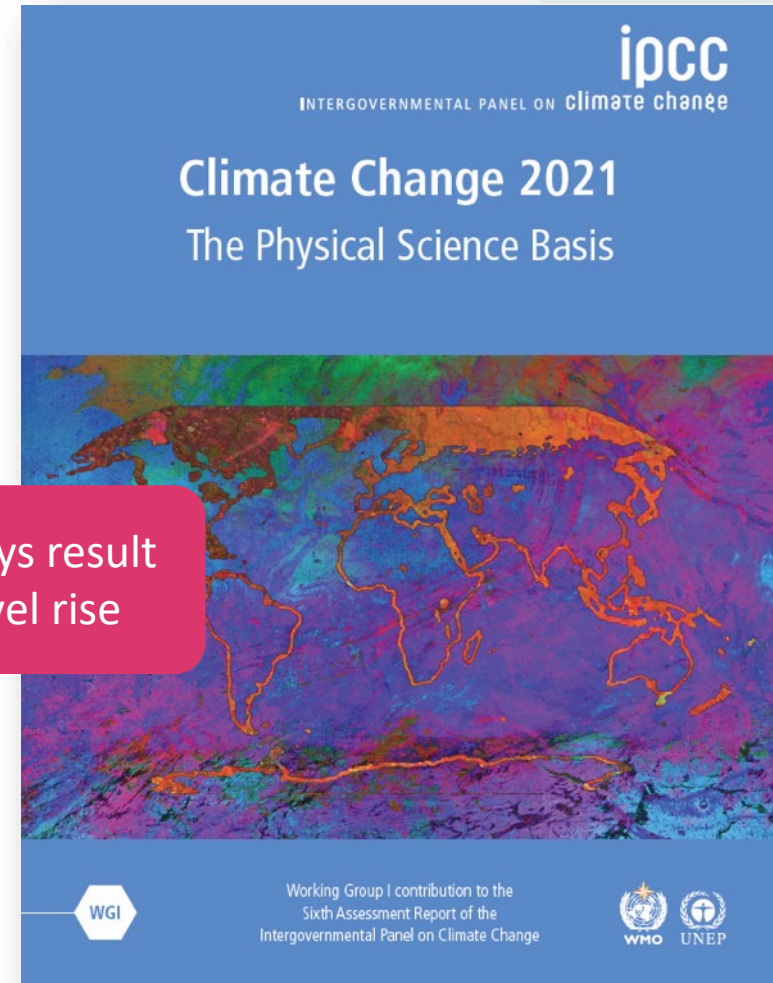
a) Global surface temperature change relative to 1850-1900



d) Global mean sea level change relative to 1900



All pathways result in sea level rise



# False Creek

A much loved urban waterway in the heart of the city

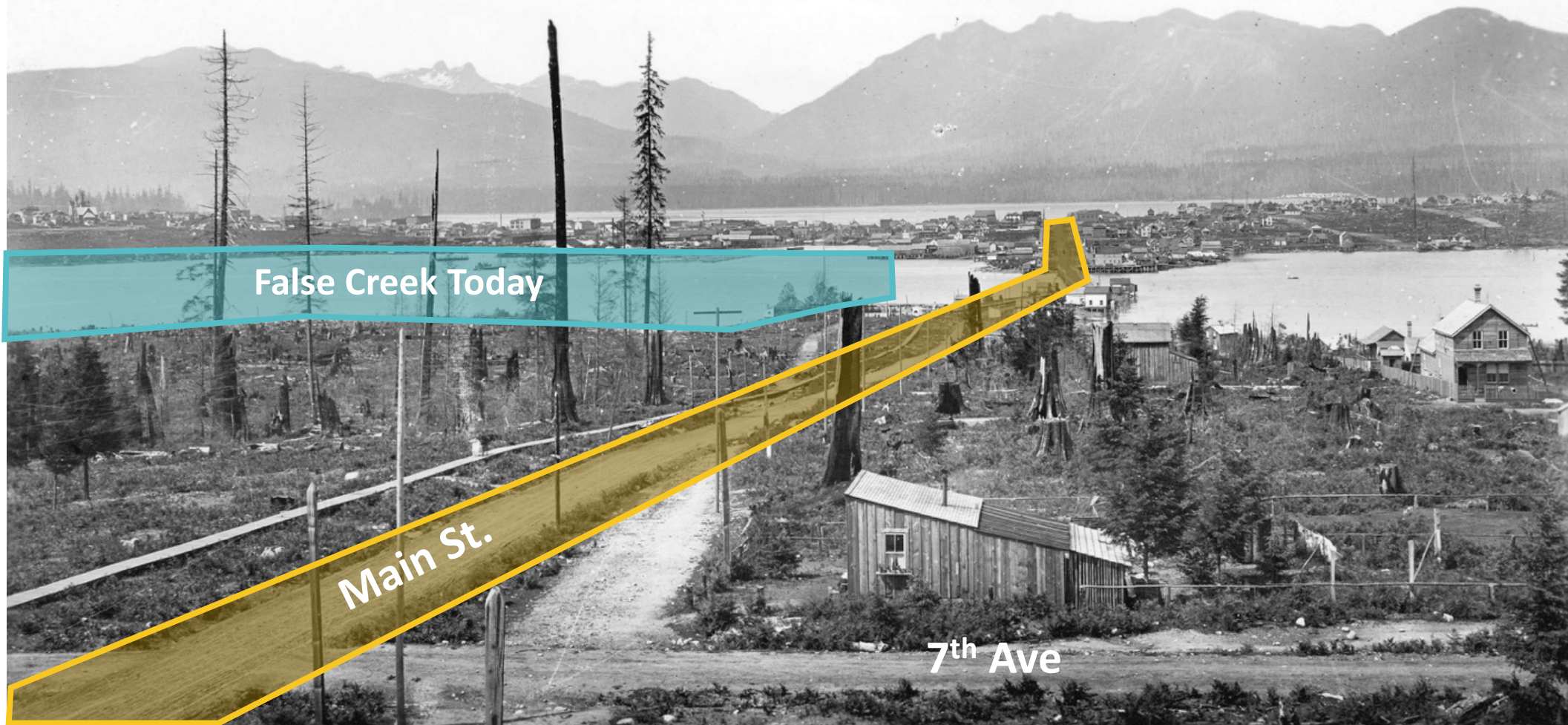








# False Creek - 1890



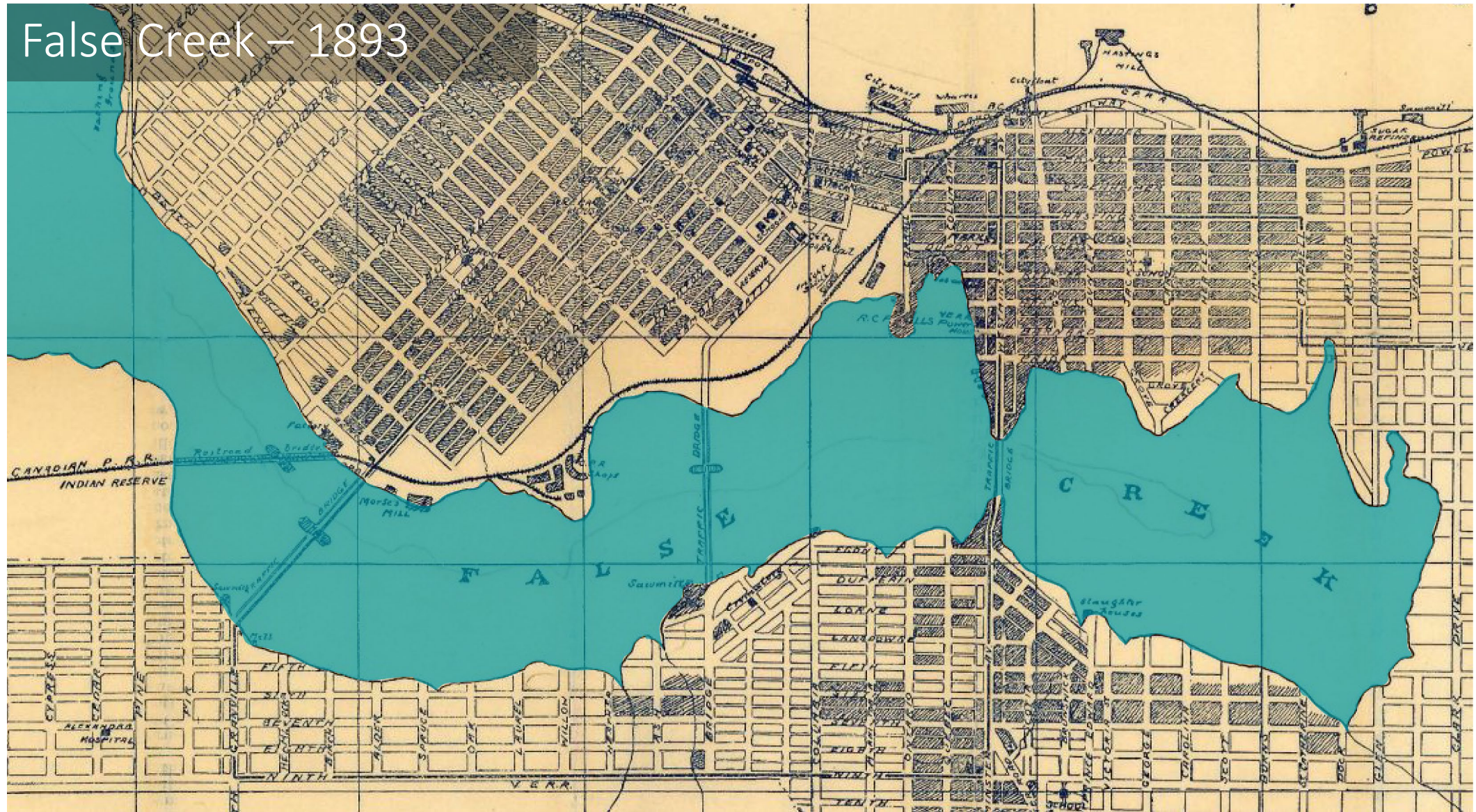
False Creek Today

Main St.

7th Ave



## False Creek – 1893





## False Creek – today + 1893





## False Creek – 1m SLR, 1:500 storm







# What's at Risk?

A DYNAMIC, MIXED-USE AREA

- 38,000+ residents and a range of housing
- \$19 billion in assessed property value
- 200 industrial properties
- Emergency and medical facilities
- Schools and childcare facilities
- Granville Island
- Parks, recreation, and activity centres
- Major utilities and other assets



# Coastal Adaptation Plan

Fraser River Foreshore and False Creek



# A Decade of Coastal Adaptation Planning

## Public Engagement



**2012+**

- Mapping and flood modeling



**2018**

- *Coastal Adaptation Plan – Fraser River Foreshore*



**2020**

- *Coastal Adaptation Plan – False Creek*



# Coastal Adaptation Plan

## Public engagement and information

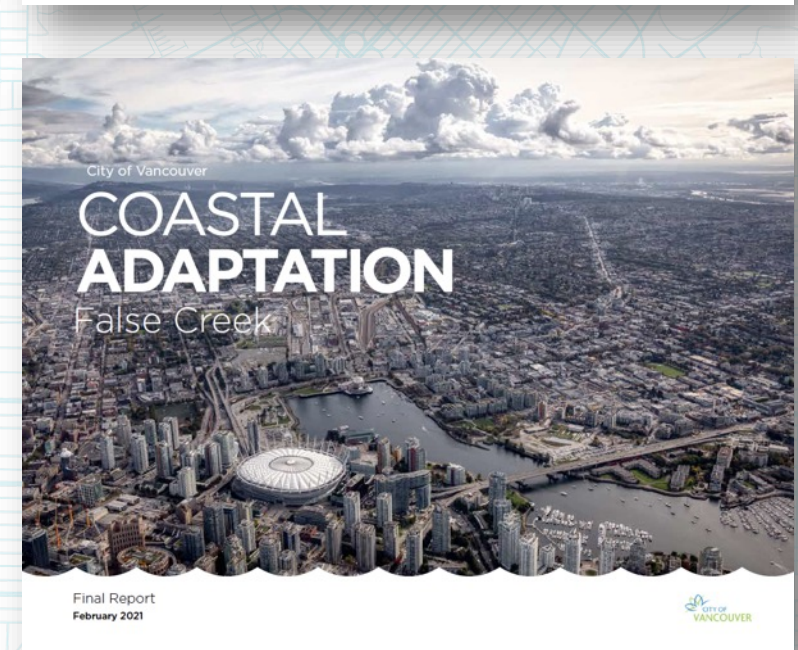
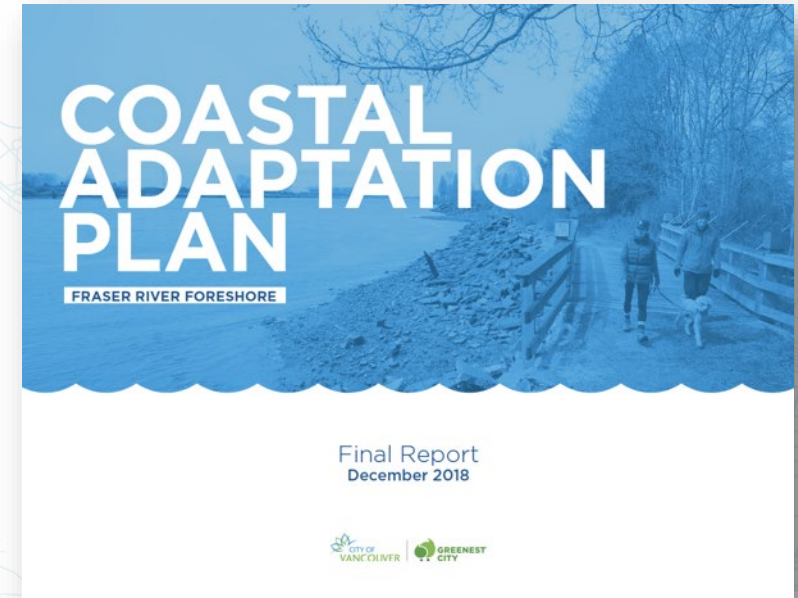
- Climate change and sea level rise 101 – what's happening, where, when?
- What's at risk?

## Community values

- What matters?
- What needs to be considered in future work?

## Planning and Design Principles

- Guide future planning and design work





**Conversations in Canoes**  
videos with over 3250 views

**1500**



**Postcards**  
mailed out



**175**

students attended three  
**University Lectures**



**2643**

responses from three  
**Community Surveys**

**70** 

**Social Media** posts  
with 1500 average  
impressions each



**OVER 9500**  
**TOTAL TOUCHPOINTS**

**25**

**Workshops and  
Community Conversations**  
with 632 participants

**2**

**Educational  
Publications**  
with 3000 pieces  
distributed

**70**

participants at three  
**Youth Events**

**24**

**Seawall Signs**

**2530** 

**ShapeYourCity  
Visitors**

**8** 

pieces of  
**Media Coverage**





Community workshop at Dunbar Community Centre





# Community Values – False Creek



**Communities, People,  
and Homes**



**Health and  
Safety**



**Infrastructure and  
Transportation**



**Environment**



**Local and  
Regional Economy**



**Arts, Culture, and  
Heritage**



**Recreation**



# Coastal Adaptation Plan - Design Principles



Design for adaptability



Design for safety and public health



Design for safe-to-fail infrastructure systems



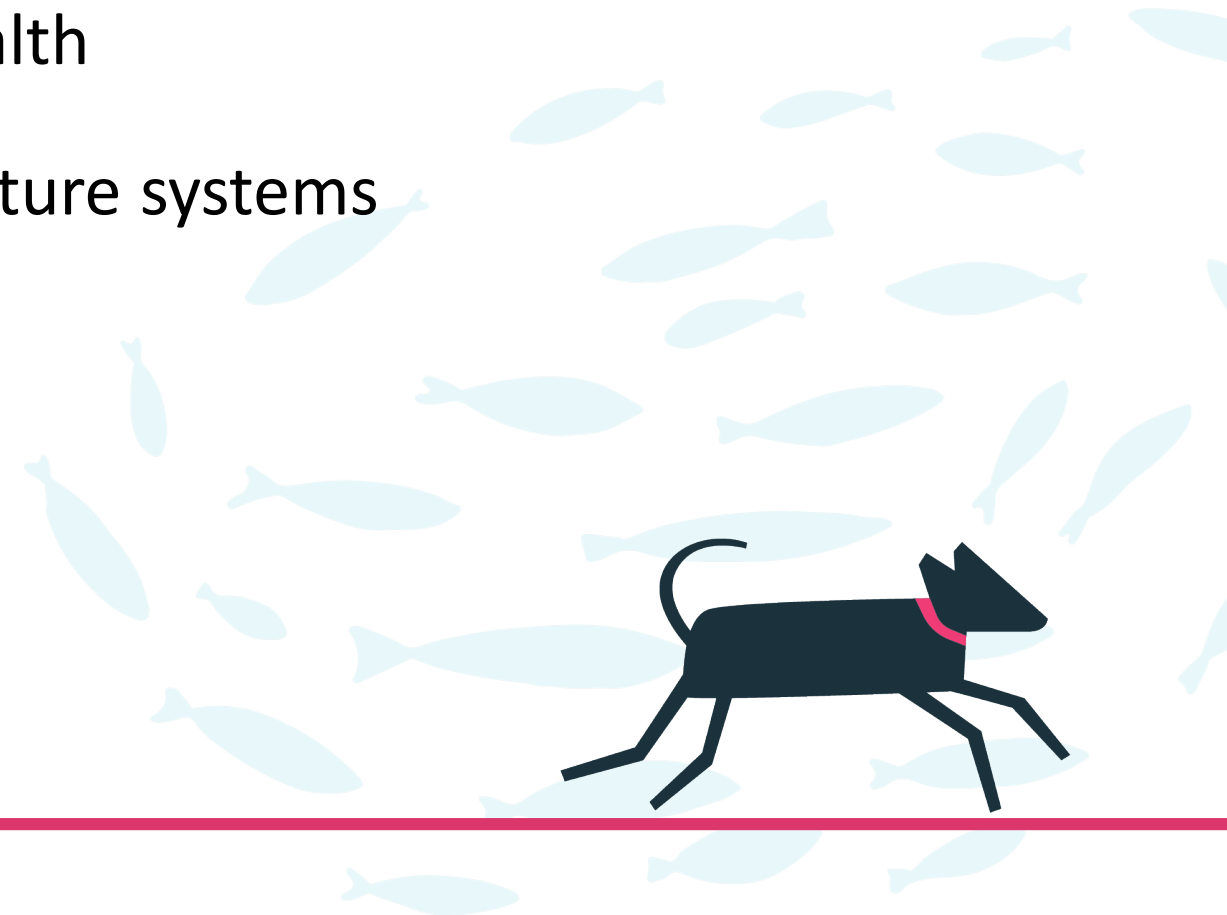
Design for nature



Design for access



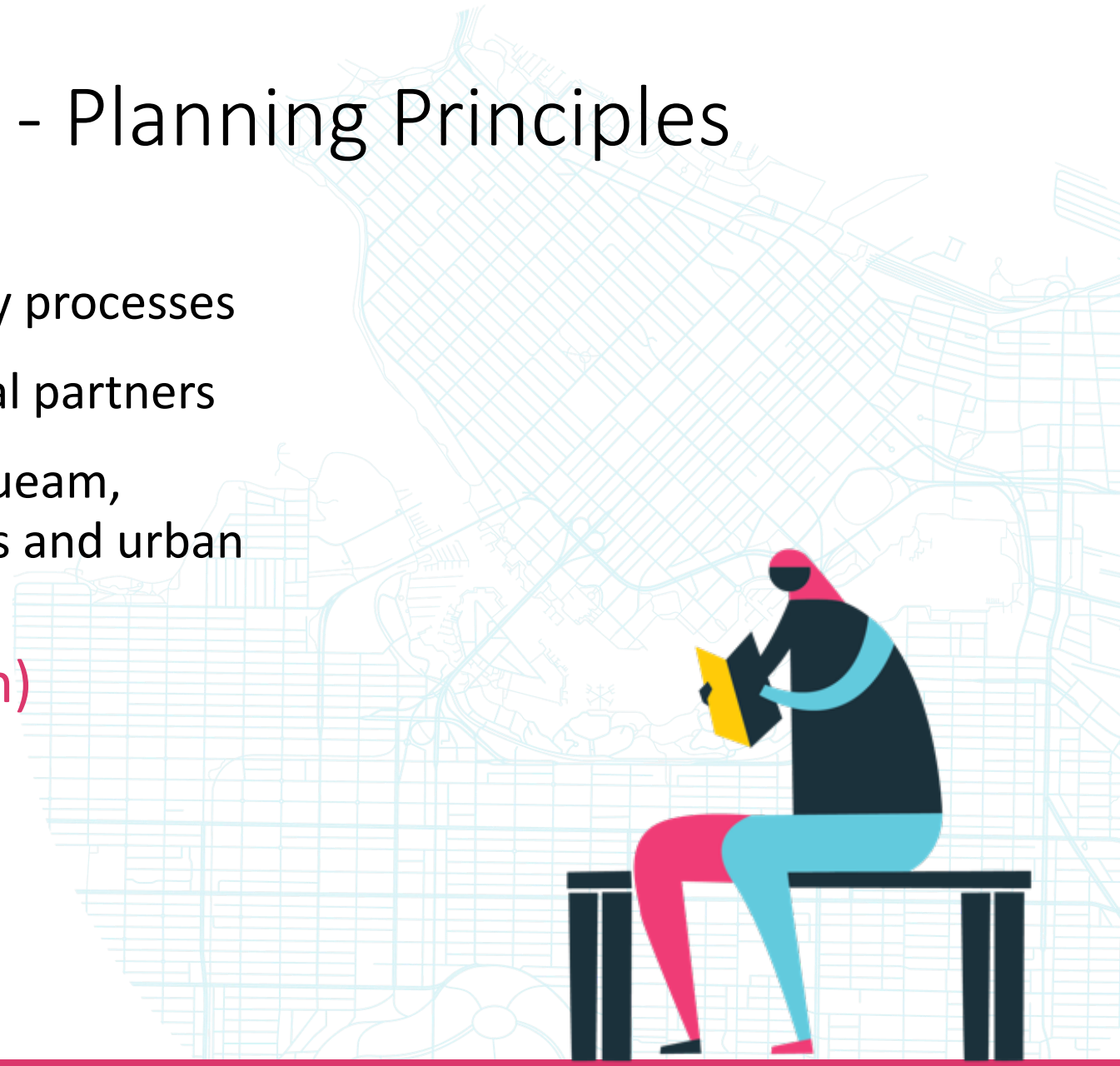
Design for co-benefits





# Coastal Adaptation Plan - Planning Principles

- Plan for integration with other City processes
- Plan for coordination with external partners
- Plan for reconciliation with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations and urban Indigenous peoples
- Plan for transparency (education)
- Plan for equity
- Plan for cost-sharing





# Sea2City Design Challenge

## Overview







A unique, community-driven design challenge

- ✓ Guide urban development and ecological revitalization in False Creek
- ✓ Inform next phase of Vancouver's Coastal Adaptation Plan
- ✓ Guided by community values and design principles identified in earlier Coastal Adaptation Plan work







# Sea2City Design Challenge

- Two multidisciplinary teams to work together and with the City and other project partners to:
  - Explore coastal adaptation approaches to sea level rise and coastal flooding that respond to the social equity, economic, and ecological challenges
  - Investigate adaptation approaches for sea level rise beyond one metre
  - Expand the City's toolbox of coastal flood management approaches
  - Increase public awareness of climate change and sea level rise



# Why a Challenge?

- Safe space for creativity and experimentation
  - Exploring concepts without the pressure of making commitments
- Foster collaboration and build capacity
  - An unprecedented challenge that requires everyone to work and lean together
  - Help mainstream coastal adaptation at the City
- Informing and involving public
  - Building shared awareness around the challenge of sea level rise and potential adaptation pathways
  - Priming people for future work and difficult choices ahead





# PWL + MVRDV Team

- PWL Partnership – landscape architecture and design (Vancouver)
- MVRDV – architecture and design (Rotterdam, Netherlands)
- Deltares USA – water research (Maryland and Netherlands)
- Modern Formline Design – Coast Salish cultural expression (North Vancouver)
  - Westmar Advisors – coastal engineering
  - G.L. Williams & Associates Ltd. – environment
  - Happy City – urban planning and design
  - MODUS – urban design and engagement
  - Goudappel – mobility planning

Deltares

MVRDV



## SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE



# Mithun + One

- Mithun – landscape architecture design (Seattle)
- ONE – architecture and urban design (New York and Netherlands)
  - Moffat & Nichol – urban water, coastal, environmental (Vancouver/Seattle)
  - Herrera – water resources, environment, nearshore habitat restoration (Bellingham/Seattle)





## SEA2CITY DESIGN CHALLENGE

### CHALLENGE SITES

- 1 Between Bridges
- 2 Coopers Park
- 3 Stamps Landing
- 4 Olympic Village

### CHARRETTE SITE

- 5 East of Cambie





## Between Bridges

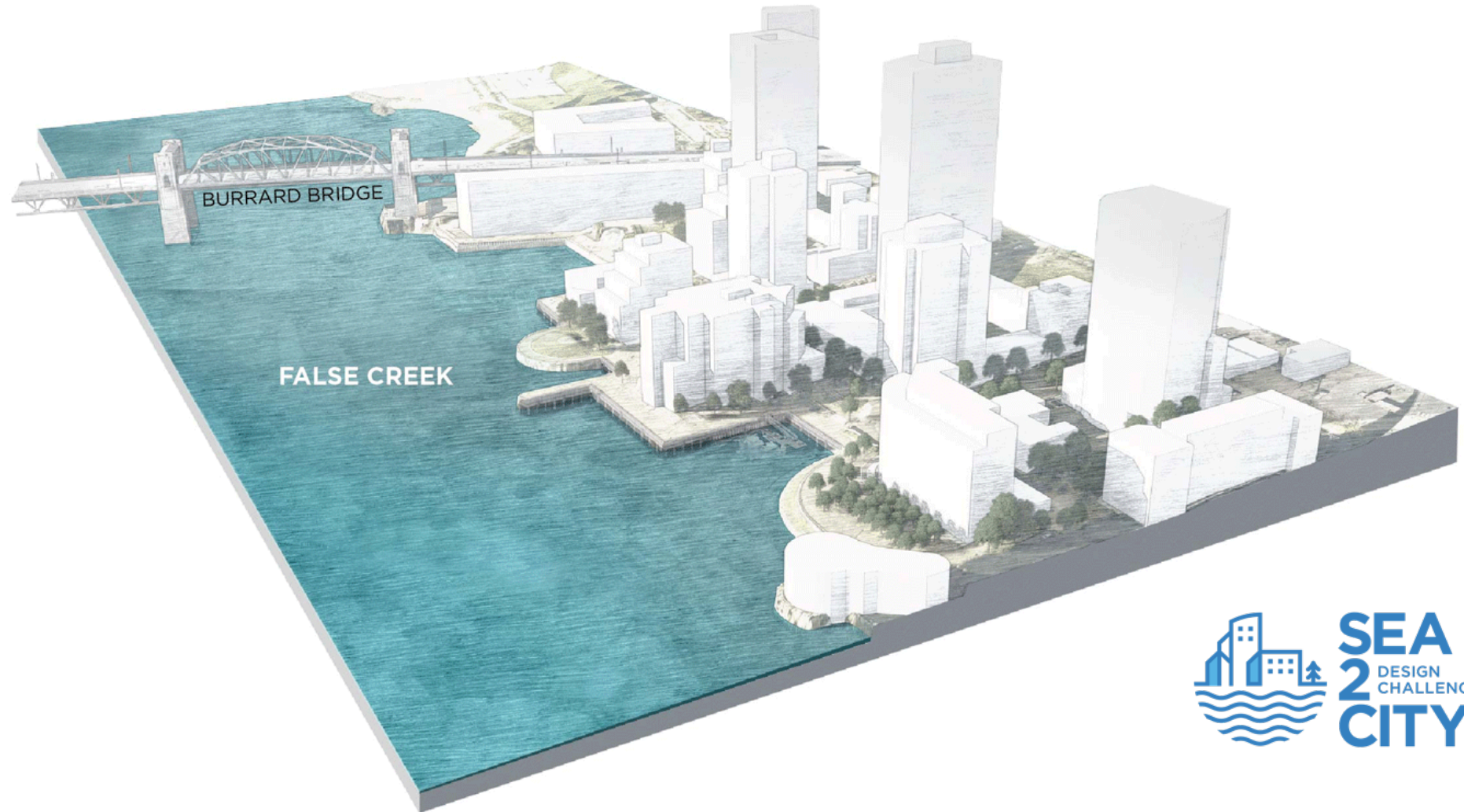
- False Creek Ferry/Aquabus dock and private marinas
- Residential towers with mixed-use ground floors that include commercial, and office uses
- Shoreline includes significant decking





# Between Bridges

Today





## Coopers' Park

- Portions underneath north end of Cambie Street Bridge
- Shoreline a combination of rip rap and sea walls
- Residential towers with some ground floor commercial/office
- Connection site – Plaza of Nations





# Coopers' Park

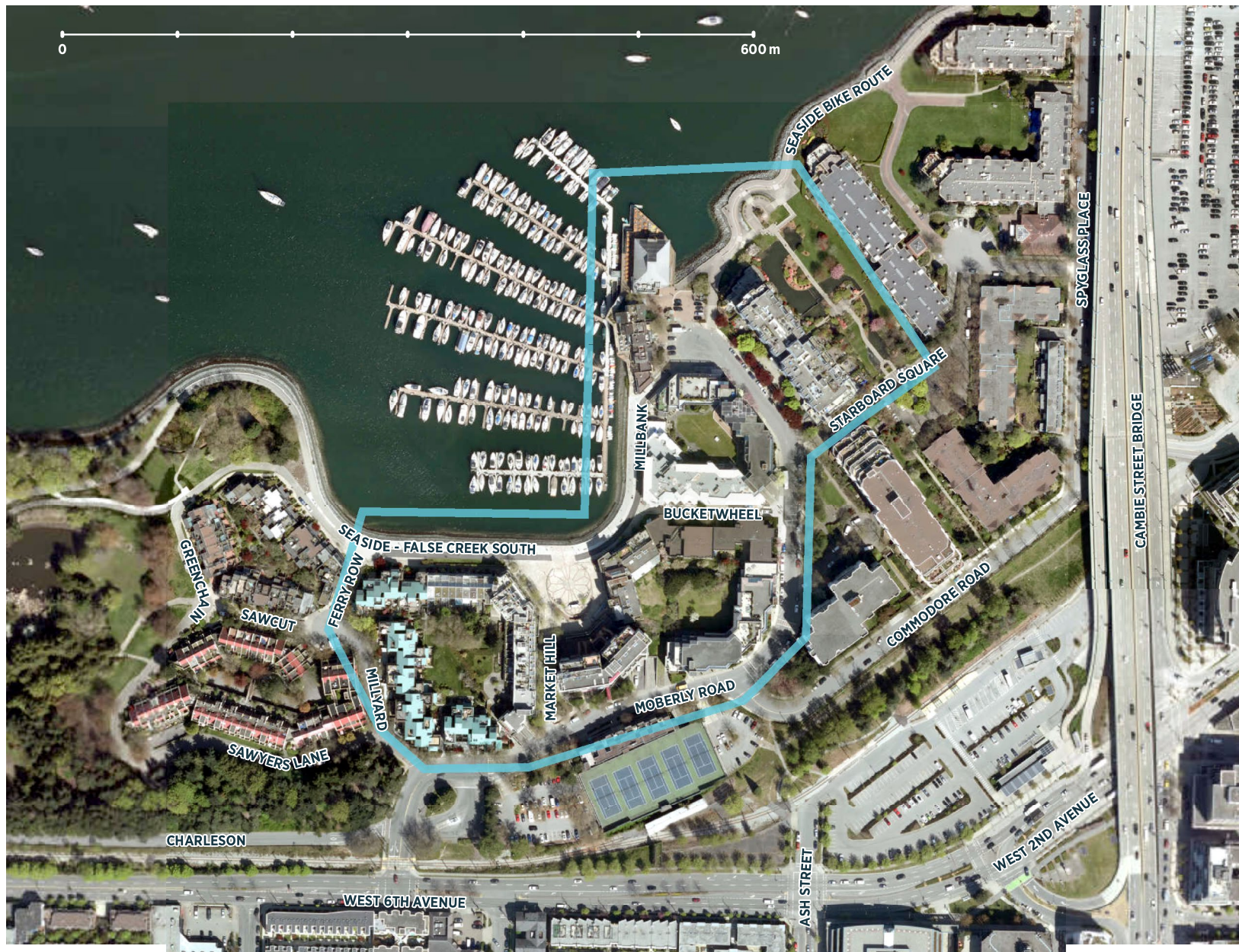
Today





## Stamps Landing

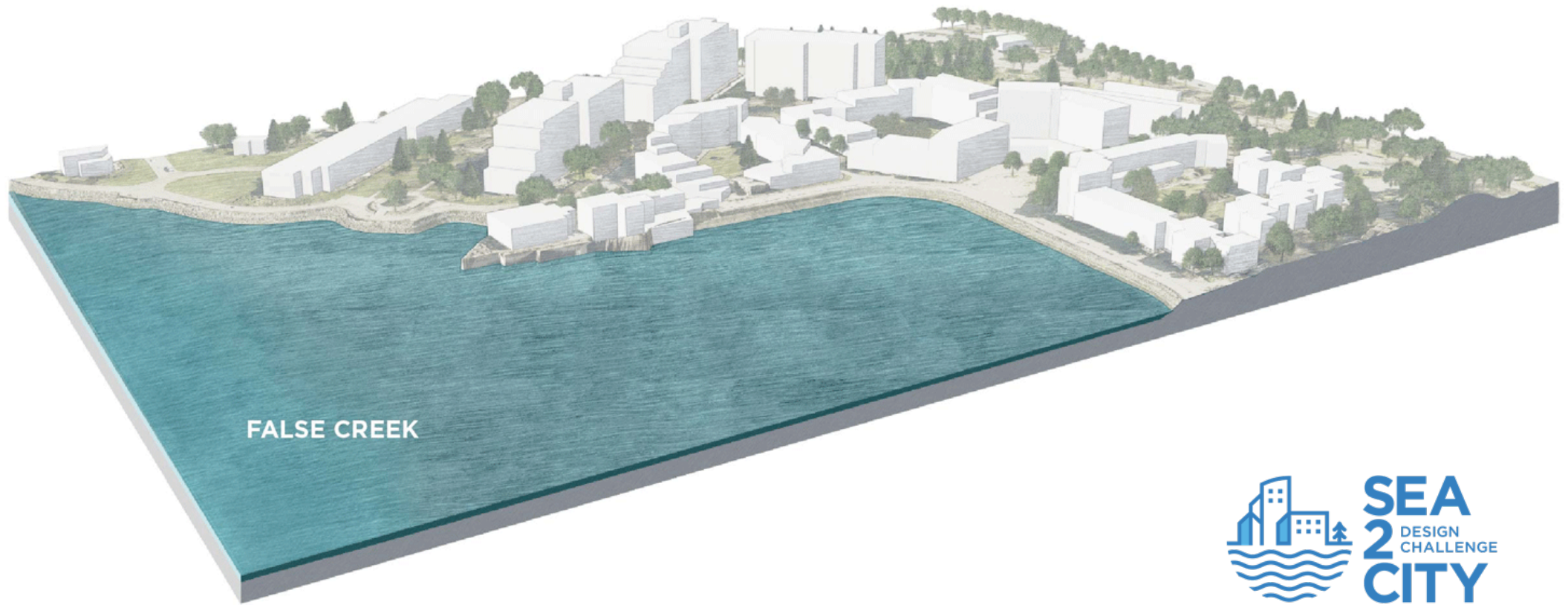
- Located east of Charleson Park
- Shoreline mostly rocky with some decking
- Heather Civic Marina
- Mixed-use residential with busy commercial hub
- CSO north of the site





# Stamps Landing

Today





## Olympic Village

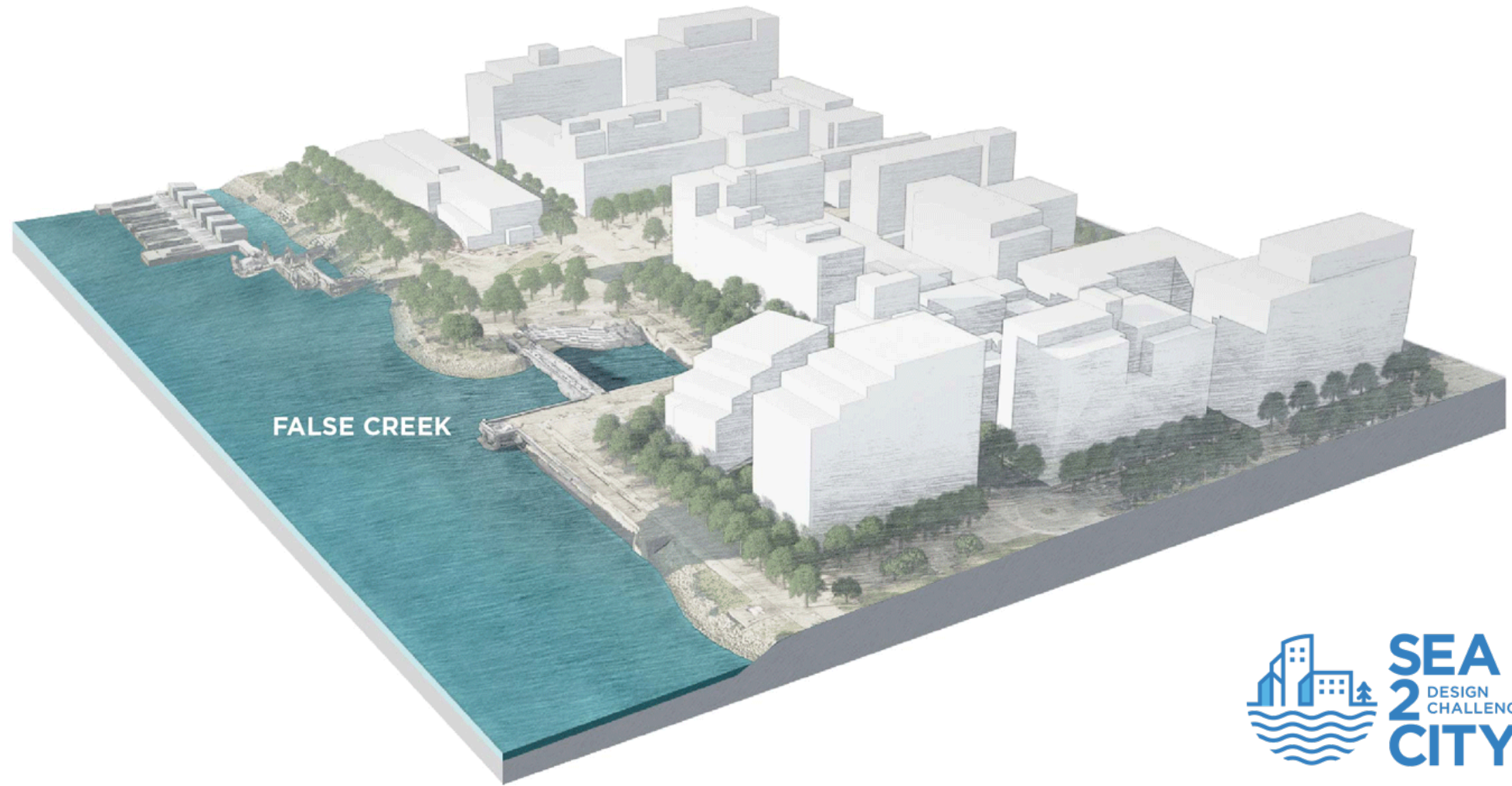
- Large mixed-use area (2010 Olympics)
- Rip rap, sea walls, and some decking on shoreline
- High-density residential buildings, some rental and a co-op buildings
- Busy commercial hub with many shops/services
- Creekside Community Centre
- Busy marina and dock complex
- Connection site - East Park





# Olympic Village

Today





## East of Cambie

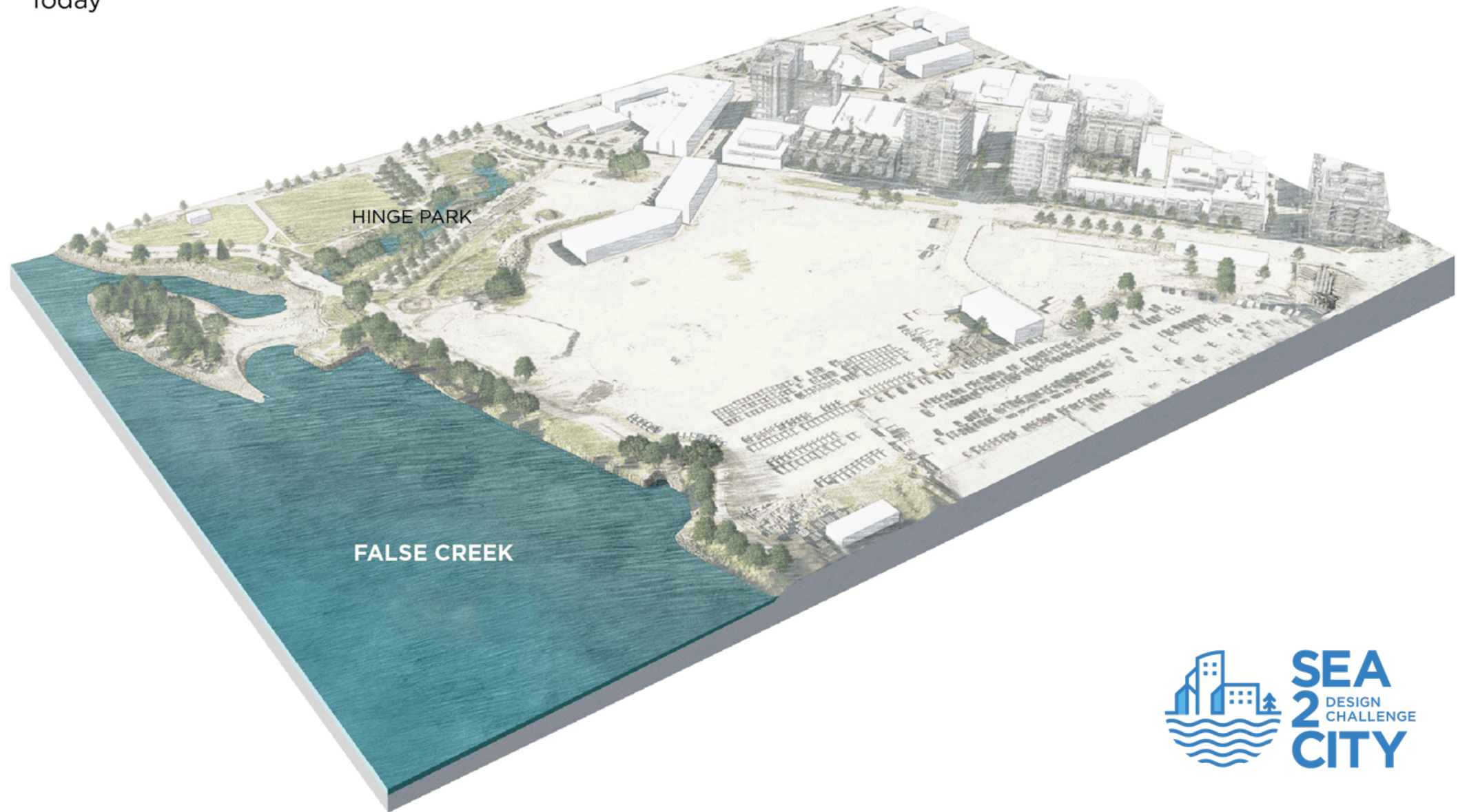
- Charrette site
- Large City-owned site
- New elementary school to be located east of site
- Existing temporary social housing, urban farm and social venture
- False Creek Neighbourhood Energy Utility located in south-west corner of site





# East of Cambie

Today





# Polling Question 6





# Sea2City Design Challenge

Process







Sea2City

**DESIGN  
TEAMS**

City  
Advisory  
Team

Technical  
Advisory  
Group

Community  
Advisory  
Group

Youth  
Adaptation  
Lab

Public, Partners, Collaborators



## ROUND 1

Getting Started



Sep - Oct 2021

*Two teams selected*

*Team orientation - False Creek, the community, Challenge sites*



## ROUND 2

Preliminary Designs



Mar - Apr 2022

*Early concepts - what could be done?*

*Community and technical review*

*Public events and activities*

## ROUND 3

Final Concepts  
East of Cambie Design Charrette

Jun - Jul 2022

*Final concepts - Challenge Sites*

*Early concepts - where to "draw the line" in False Creek*

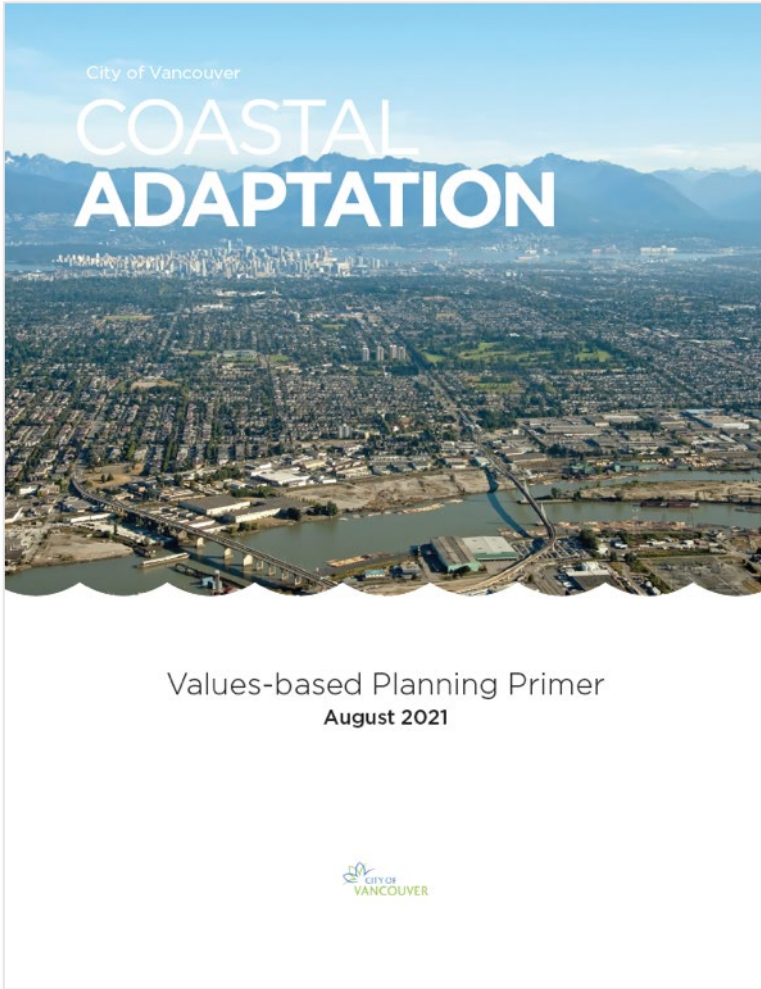
*Community and technical review*

*Public events and activities*

*East of Cambie Design Charrette*



# A values-based approach

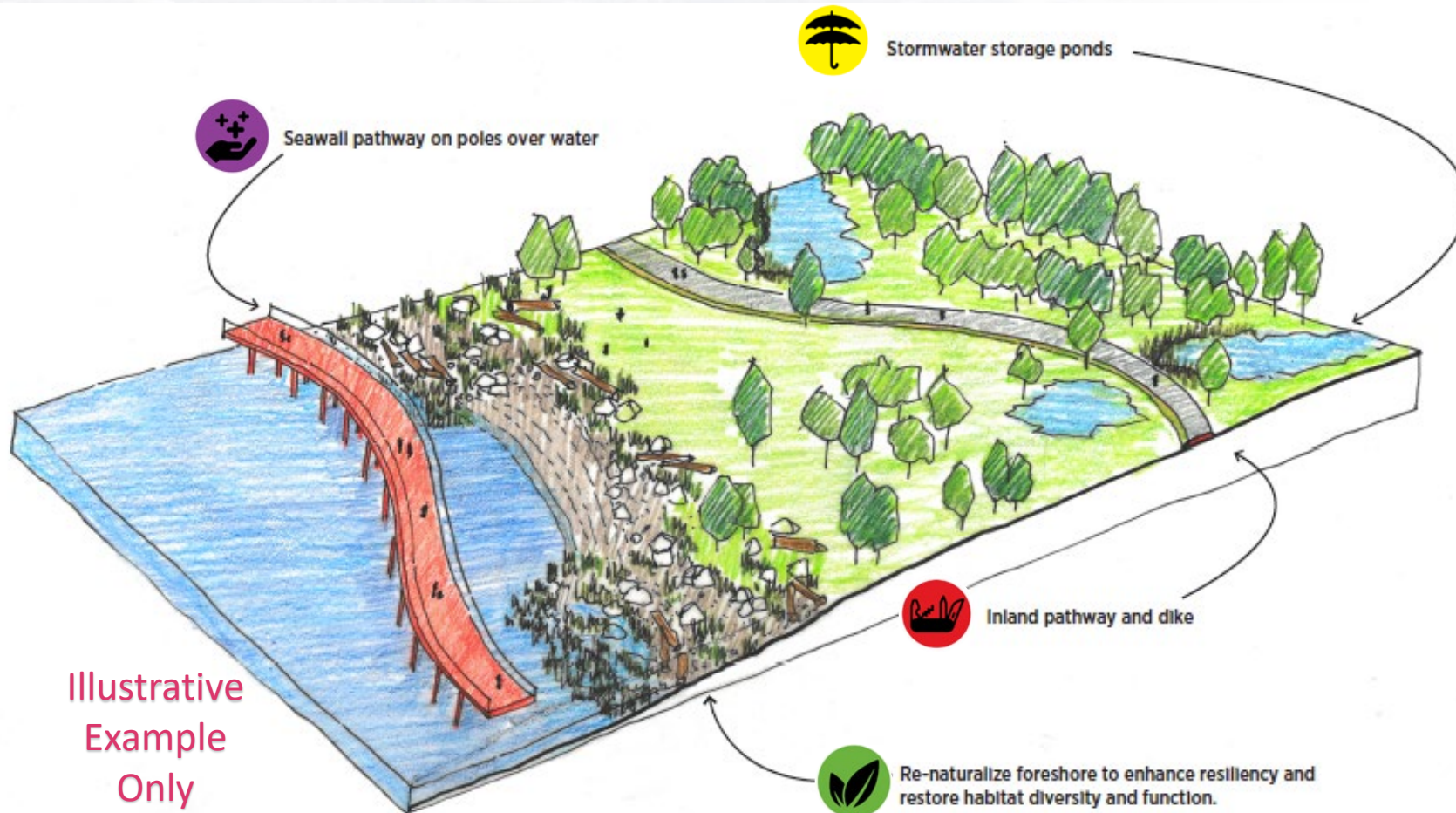


- Making sure future work incorporates **facts and values**
- Design criteria guide development of concepts for Sea2City Challenge sites
  - One concept for each general adaptation approach – resist, accommodate, move/avoid (spring 2022)
  - One preferred concept – likely a combination of approaches (summer 2022)
- Community values used to evaluate concepts
- Testing our approach for future work – “learning by doing”





1m Sea Level Rise and 1:500 storm



Illustrative  
Example  
Only

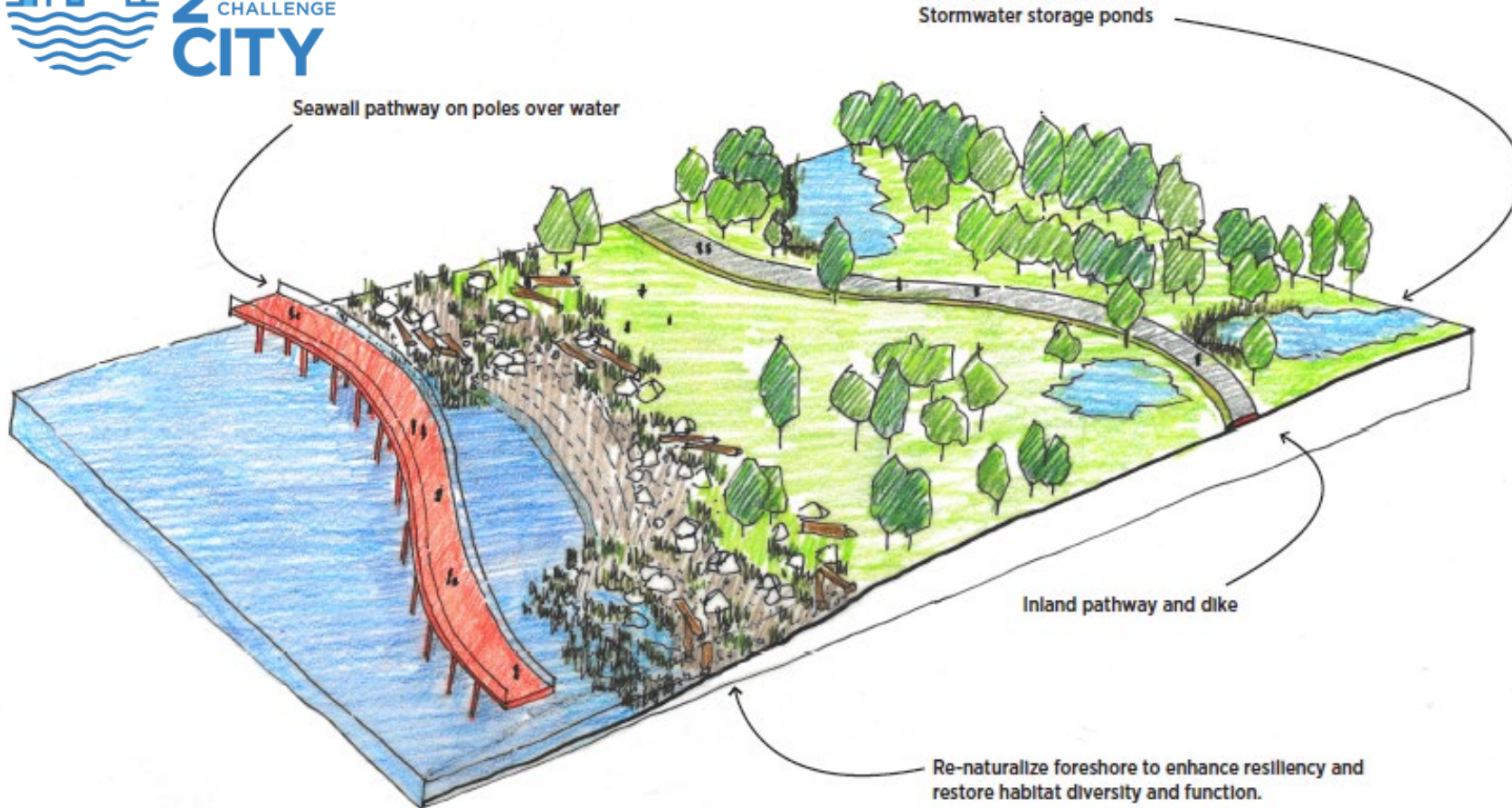
# Design Principles

*Used by teams to inform and guide design of adaptation concepts*

-  Design for adaptability
-  Design for safety and public health
-  Design for safe-to-fail infrastructure
-  Design with nature
-  Design for access
-  Design for co-benefits



# Values

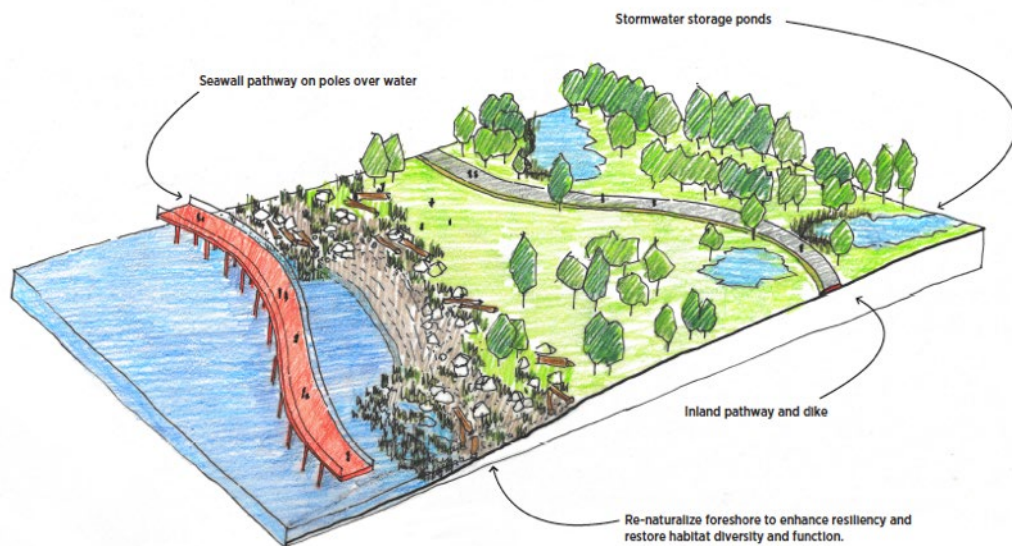


*Used to help evaluate design concepts*








- *How do design concepts respond to values?*
- *How could design concepts be improved?*



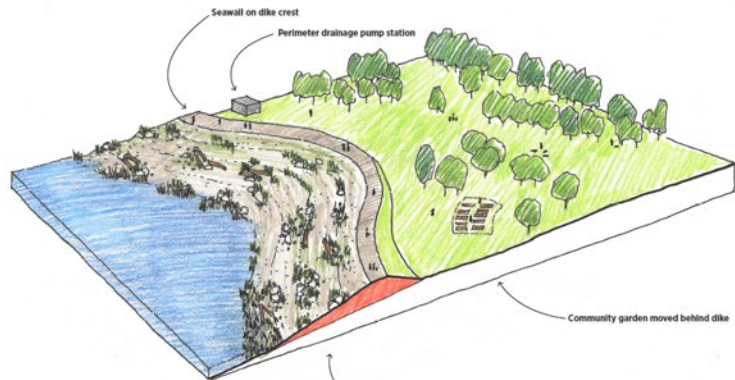




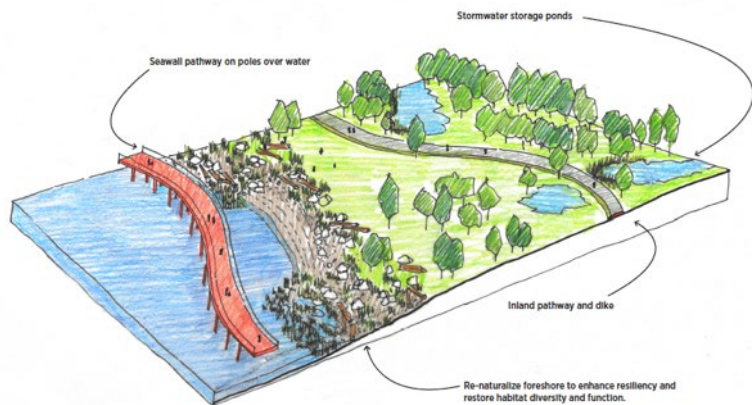
## OPTION 1: RESIST

Values Criteria	Description	Indicator
 <b>Communities, People, and Homes</b>	<i>Example:</i> No residents are relocated. Views of False Creek would be impacted by an onshore dike (~5m).	Indicator: People permanently displaced NO CHANGE
 <b>Health and Safety</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion SLIGHTLY BETTER
 <b>Infrastructure and Transportation</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion SLIGHTLY WORSE
 <b>Environment</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion FAR BETTER
 <b>Local and Regional Economy</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion SLIGHTLY BETTER
 <b>Arts, Culture, and Heritage</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion NO CHANGE
 <b>Recreation</b>	<i>Description of option's impact on value criterion.</i>	Indicator: Linked to criterion SLIGHTLY WORSE

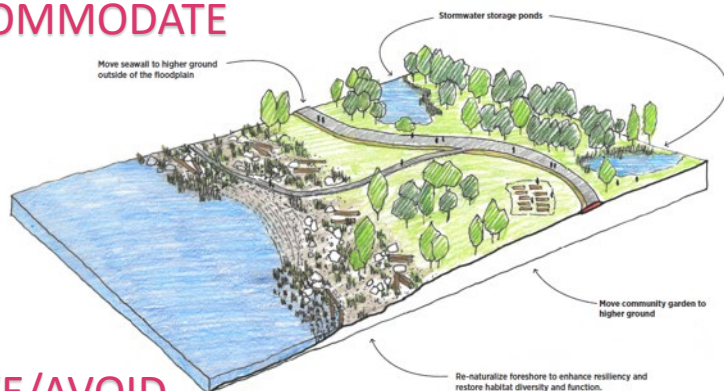











RESIST



ACCOMMODATE



MOVE/AVOID

		BASELINE NO ADAPTATION	OPTION 1 RESIST	OPTION 2 ACCOMMODATE	OPTION 3 MOVE/AVOID
<b>Values Criteria</b>					
	<b>Communities, People, and Homes</b>	MODERATELY WORSE	NO CHANGE	MODERATELY BETTER	FAR WORSE
	<b>Health and Safety</b>	SLIGHTLY WORSE	SLIGHTLY BETTER	SLIGHTLY BETTER	MODERATELY BETTER
	<b>Infrastructure and Transportation</b>	FAR WORSE	SLIGHTLY WORSE	SLIGHTLY WORSE	FAR BETTER
	<b>Environment</b>	NO CHANGE	FAR BETTER	NO CHANGE	FAR BETTER
	<b>Local and Regional Economy</b>	FAR WORSE	SLIGHTLY BETTER	SLIGHTLY WORSE	MODERATELY WORSE
	<b>Arts, Culture, and Heritage</b>	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE	NO CHANGE	MODERATELY BETTER
	<b>Recreation</b>	FAR WORSE	SLIGHTLY WORSE	SLIGHTLY BETTER	FAR BETTER





# Indigenous Knowledge

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- This community value honours the wisdom and stewardship of Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples and calls upon the City to listen and act on this wisdom and stewardship in a good way
- Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh will be invited to provide input on design concepts
- Design Teams will be asked to reflect on, and where appropriate and as directed by Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh, incorporate Indigenous design principles developed through the Northeast False Creek parks planning process



An aerial photograph of a coastal urban area. In the foreground, a modern residential or commercial development with several multi-story buildings featuring green roofs is situated along the waterfront. A paved promenade with trees and a small bridge connects the buildings to a park area. To the left, a marina with several boats is visible. The background shows a dense urban landscape with various buildings and streets. The text "Polling Questions 7 - 8" is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle in the upper center of the image.

# Polling Questions 7 - 8





# Thank you

Stay involved.

Visit [www.vancouver.ca/sea2city](http://www.vancouver.ca/sea2city)

Email us: [sealevelrise@vancouver.ca](mailto:sealevelrise@vancouver.ca)

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