



## A Future Vision

### **The Salish Sea has risen, and False Creek has transformed.**

The area remains a vibrant and much-loved place. The naturalized shoreline is a healthy and safe place for people to connect with the water.

Restored habitat areas provide homes for many species. Host Nations are active partners in the transformation and are visible and celebrated as the stewards of the lands and waters. Indigenous knowledge and guidance continue to breathe life into the place.

The False Creek shoreline can accommodate higher waters. Buildings have changed and are safe during the occasional flooding that is a part of life along Vancouver's coastline.

We have now practiced coastal adaptation for generations. As Vancouver continues to learn and prepare for the future, the city celebrates the ever-changing nature of its shorelines and the communities that call them home.



## A RENEWED APPROACH TO COASTAL PLANNING

The transformation of False Creek described in the vision was driven by the climate emergency. It sits at a moment in the future when, as expected, sea levels have risen two metres, severe weather and storms have become more intense and frequent, and extreme heat has become a regular occurrence.

The journey to this future False Creek will be guided and shaped by the teachings of Host Nation knowledge holders. Their continued involvement and guidance are a critical component of rethinking and decolonizing Vancouver's relationship to the shoreline.

One early recommendation from the Sea2City Design Challenge is for Vancouver to change the language of coastal planning to reflect the gradual transition to the softer, more interconnected shorelines the vision speaks to. The following approaches are not mutually exclusive and will be interwoven throughout False Creek with a foundation of Host Nation values embedded in them.

- **Restore:** a revitalized and rehabilitated shoreline that restores natural functions, features, and ecosystems and includes improved flood protection for upland communities.
- **Host:** a dynamic place where water, nature, and culture are welcomed and stewarded. Human uses are flexible, adaptable, and leave a light-touch. Infrastructure works with nature to enhance resilience.
- **Acknowledge:** spaces are retrofitted or relocated over time to improve their resilience and better care for and steward natural systems.

### The Sea2City Design Challenge proposes a renewed approach to coastal adaptation planning that:

- Recognizes the long-term realities of sea-level rise and is grounded in respect for the waters, land, and each other.
- Meaningfully involves Host Nations in planning and implementation and ensures that Host Nation knowledge holders continue to provide guidance and leadership.
- Embraces living with water and builds kinship with the dynamic conditions of water and land and the species and ecosystems that call them home.
- Is coordinated across and within departments and agencies at the City of Vancouver (Planning, Sustainability, Engineering, Transportation, Real Estate and Facilities Management, Parks) in recognition of the cross-cutting challenges posed by sea level rise.
- Is informed by and enriched through partnerships with academic institutions, utility and asset operators, and the private sector.
- Recognizes that human systems can fail, and that working with nature is often the best long-term approach.

