

Food Access and Food Policy: Introduction and Examples from Seattle

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Food Systems 101

What is a Food System?

- Actors and processes that create and deliver food to consumers and manage waste streams, including:
 - Production, Processing, Marketing, Distribution, Access and Consumption, Reclamation/Recycling, Disposal
 - A supply chain model
 - BUT: a network approach is more appropriate for understanding why a system is like it is, who has interests, and who is represented in decision making

The food system ties issues together



Food policy: what can be done?

- Research
- Educate (electeds, and other folks)
- Organize (govt, civil society)
- Regulatory reform (subsidies, entitlements, land use: planning and zoning, marketing, production and processing, etc.)
- Governance change: FPC, IDT, DOF ?

Food access: what do we mean?

- Geographic (proximity and transportation)
- Availability (quality, quantity, appropriate—health and cultural)
- Affordability

Seattle Examples

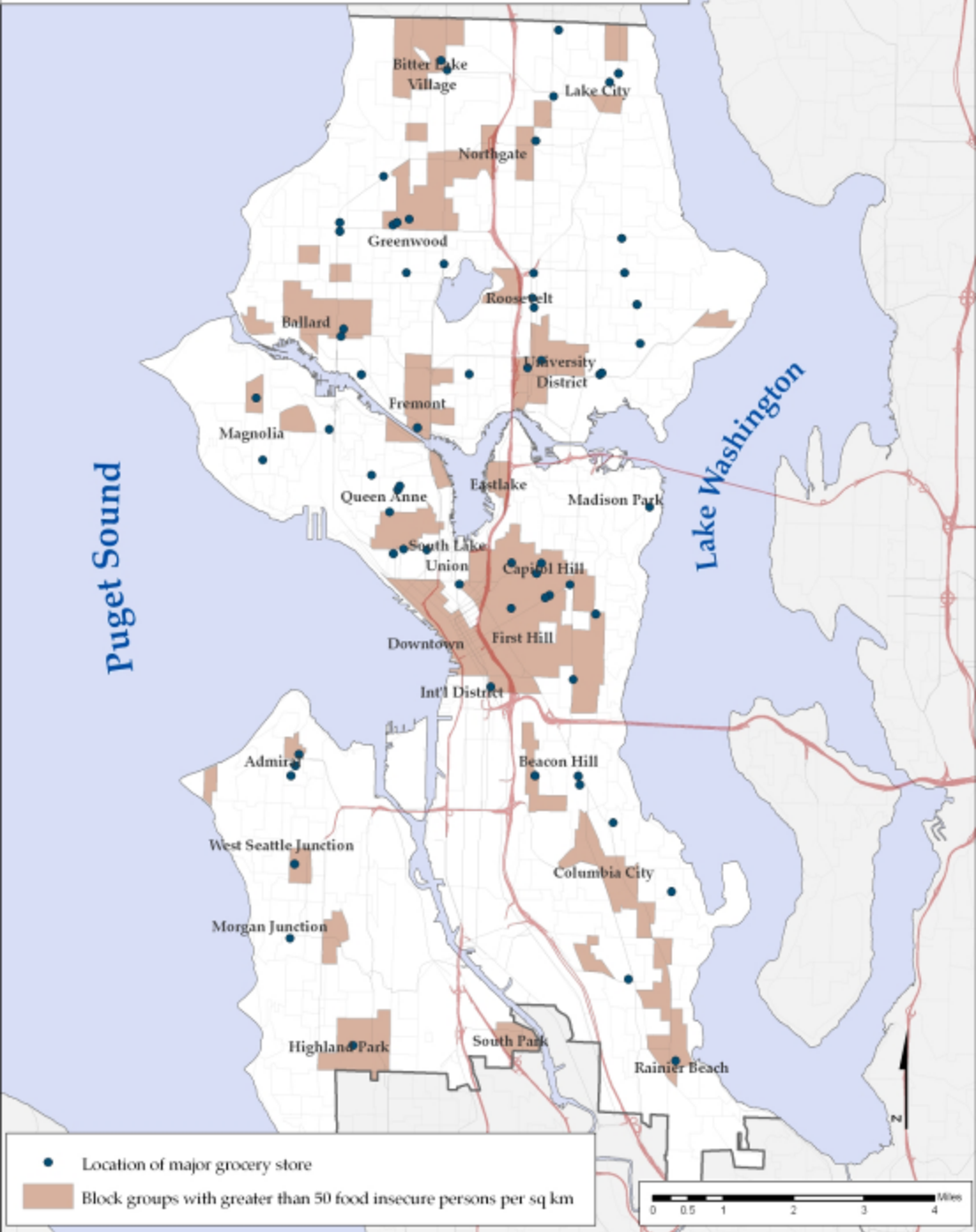
- Bus Transit Mapping and Food Insecurity
(B. Lee and A. Bjorn, AFPC)
- Grocery Gap: Rainier Valley and Queen Anne
(J. Jordan, Emerson Hunger Fellow 2007)
- Grocery store price surveys
Seattle P.I Blog (6/09),
UW-CPHN (7/09) no diff w/in chains low and high income
DNDA/UW KCFFI (8/08) diff in chains by location

Map 1. Estimated Areas of Concern for Food Insecurity

Puget Sound

Lake Washington

Example 1: Food Insecurity Risk (A. Bjorn)



Map 2. Greater than 30 Minute Transit Trip Time to Major Grocery Store

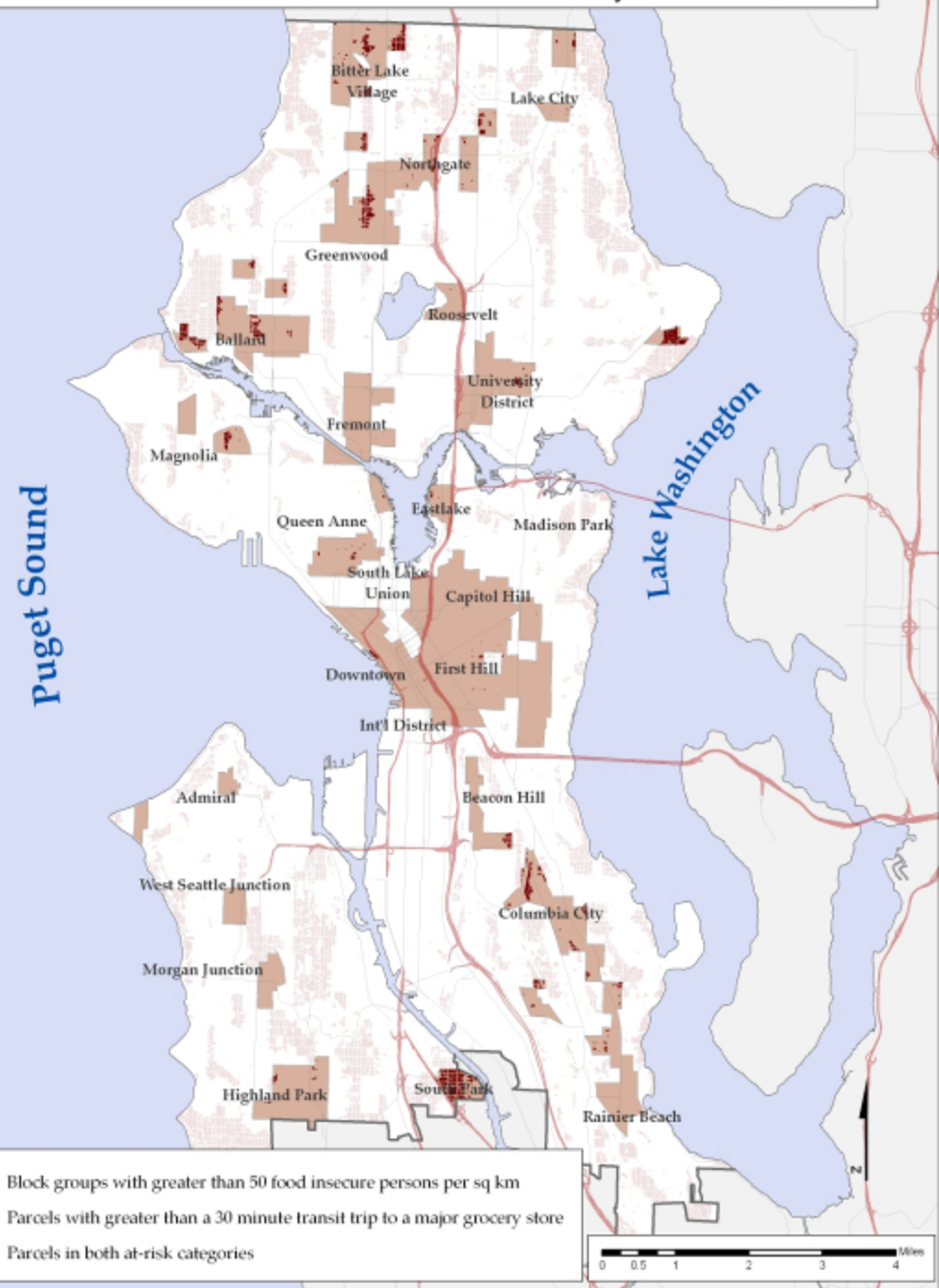
Puget Sound

Lake Washington

Example 2: 30+ Minute Transit to Grocery (B. Lee)



Map 3. Combined Areas of Concern for Food Insecurity and Transit Access



Example 3: Food Insecurity and Transit Access

We're Learning: Resources for Policy

- American Planning Association planning.org
 - Policy Guide, Planning Advisory Report, JAPA, Planning
- Public Health Law & Policy healthyplanning.org
 - Model Legislation, Technical Assistance
- International City/County Management Association icma.org
- NGOs—policy and programmatic innovators
 - Community Food Security Coalition: foodsecurity.org
 - World Hunger Year whyhunger.org
 - Growing Power growingpower.org

Some Commentary

- Socioeconomic structure
- Poverty is the problem
- Anti-hunger initiatives and “emergency food” are band-aids
- Need significant structural changes:
 - Farm Bill: ag subsidies and entitlements, labor protections
 - Minimum or Working Wages
 - Transportation policies
 - Land use decisions
- Only then can we really speak of food access, social justice and food democracy



When I give
food to the
poor
they call me
a saint.

When I ask
why the poor
have no food,
they
call me a
communist.

Dom
Helder
Camara

Thank You

Comments, questions?

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