Civic Environmental Stewardship studies in Seattle, USA

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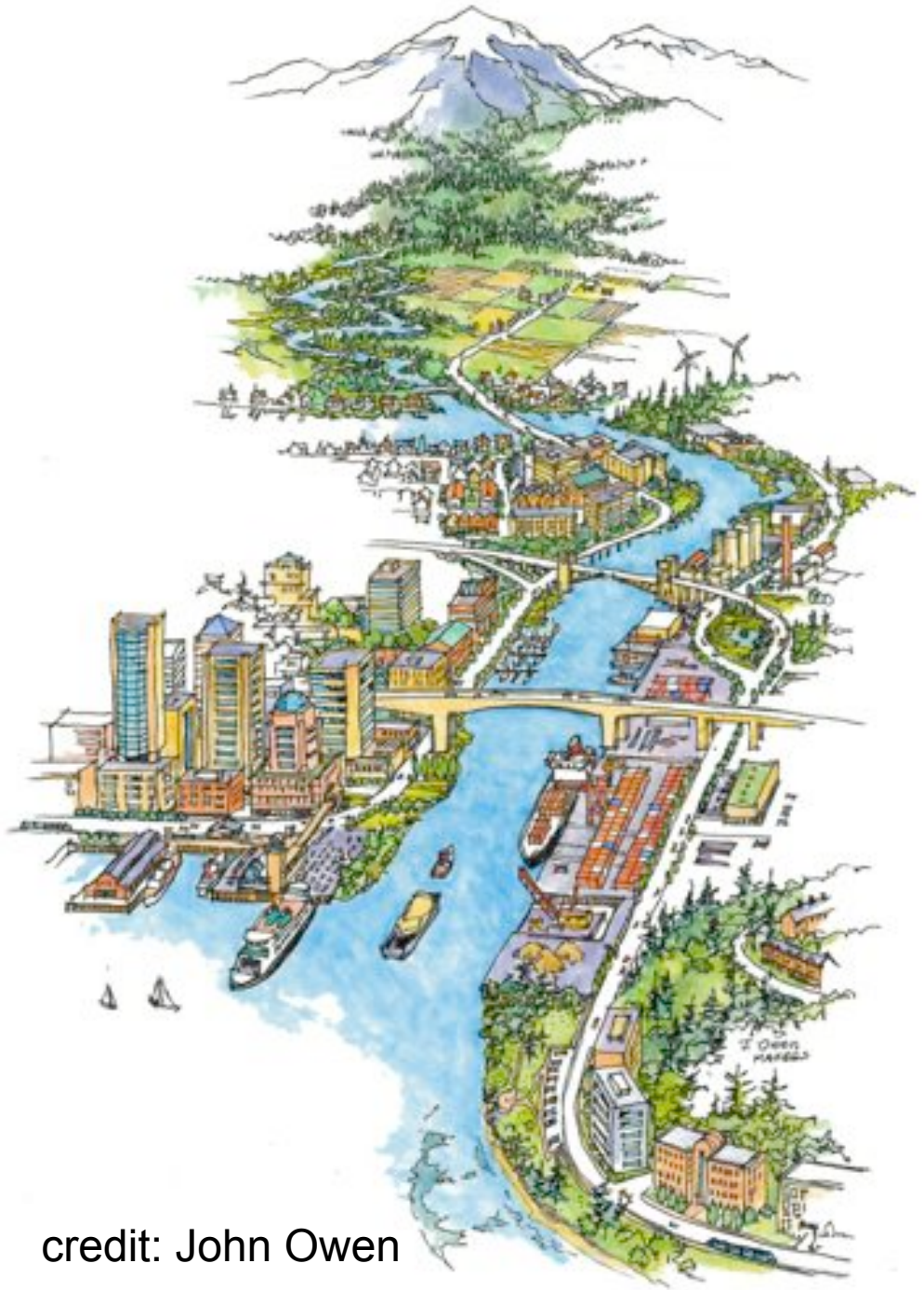
Urban/Rural Landscapes

- complex landscapes
- socio-ecological systems
- cultural values
  - Microsoft
  - Amazon
  - Starbucks



credit: John Owen

Civic Environmental Stewardship

landcare by volunteers & residents

environmental
education

forest restoration

riparian restoration

civic environmental stewardship

3 studies:
volunteer motivations
organization census
organization network analysis

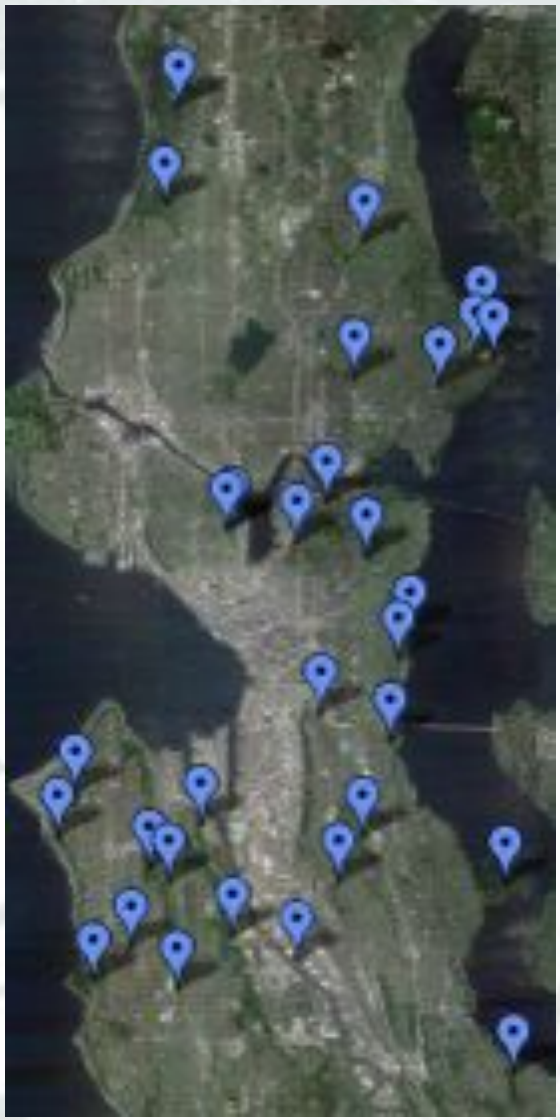
civic environmental stewardship

study 1:
volunteer motivations

Stewardship Volunteers

social science study using surveys & interviews

Place & Respondent Sampling



Population: Autumn 2010,

188 volunteer events

forested Seattle Parks' lands

estimated 3,000 individuals

Surveyed: 33 events, 155 volunteers

Events at random

People at random within events

GREEN SEATTLE PARTNERSHIP

Study Design

context

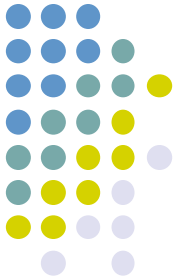
independent variables (descriptives) **x** **dependent variables (outcomes)**

- Event Characteristics
- Volunteer Characteristics
- Volunteer History
- Demography

- Motivations
- Skills and Contributions
- Satisfactions
- Personal Health & Well-Being

Results Summary

independent variables x survey themes, p<.05



- high agreement on importance of learning (with a purpose) and caring for others

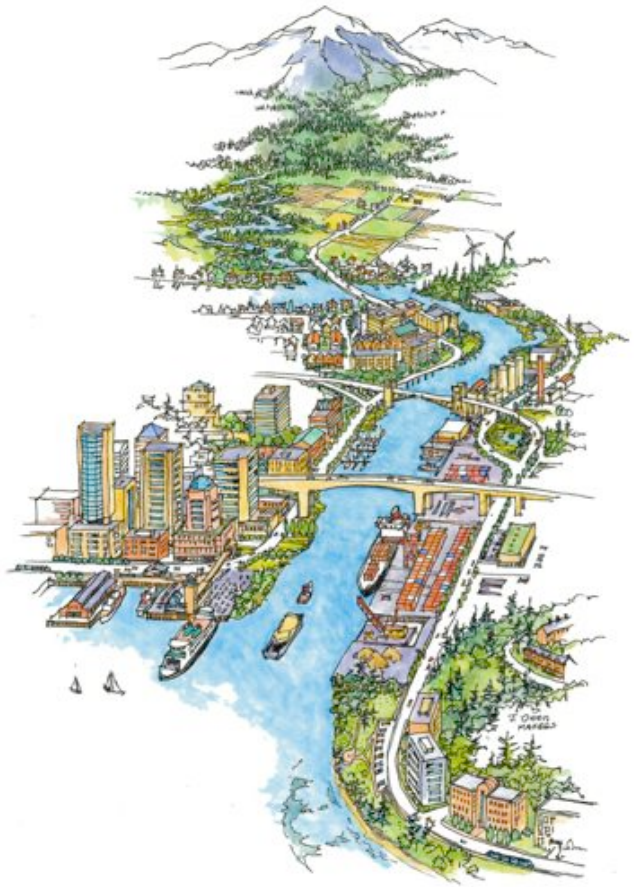
- high willingness to contribute effort to vegetation management

- few differences based on education or employment

- high satisfaction with the volunteer experience, particularly making a difference

civic environmental stewardship

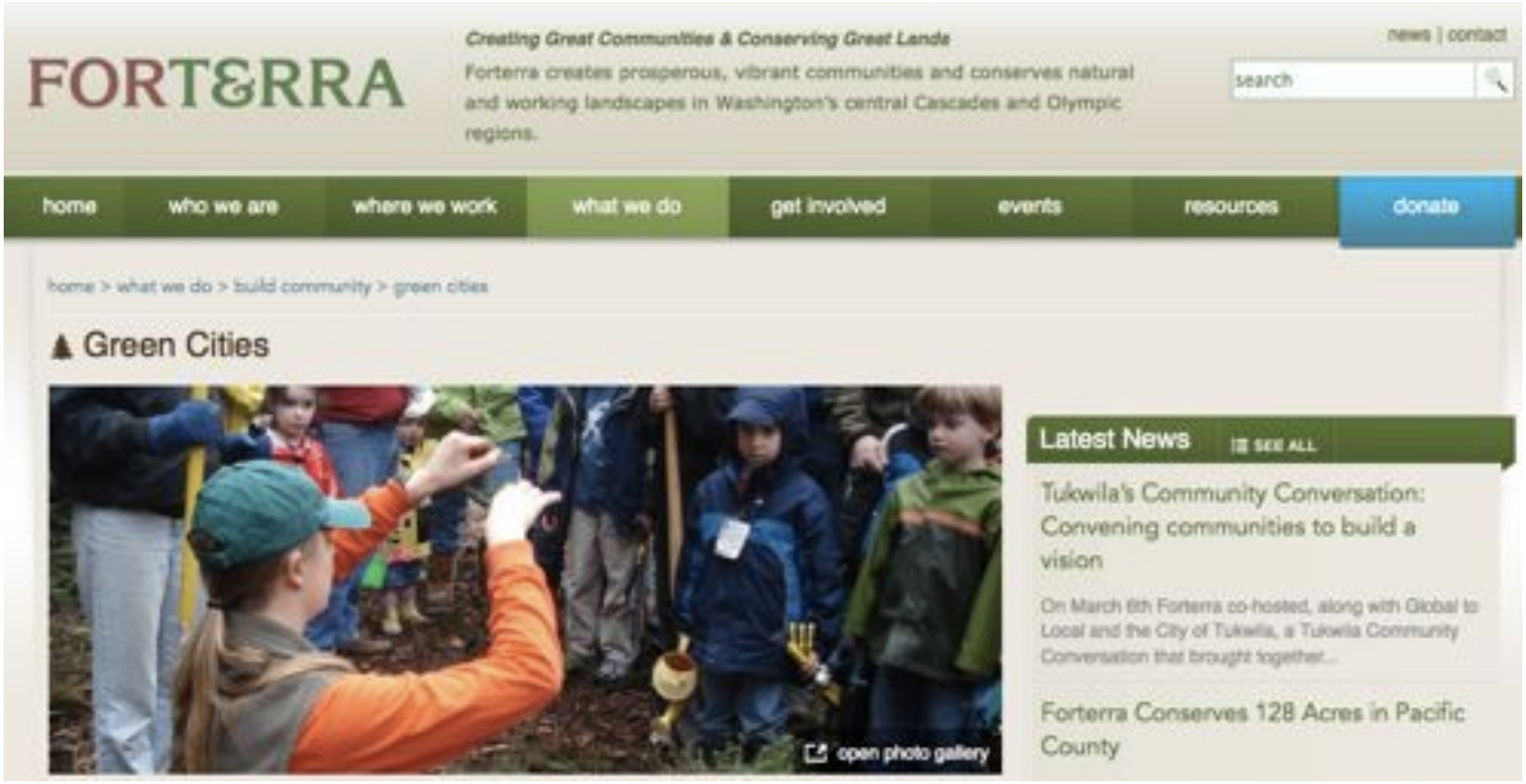
study 2:
organization census



Stewardship Organizations

big picture!
how many?
purpose?
activity?

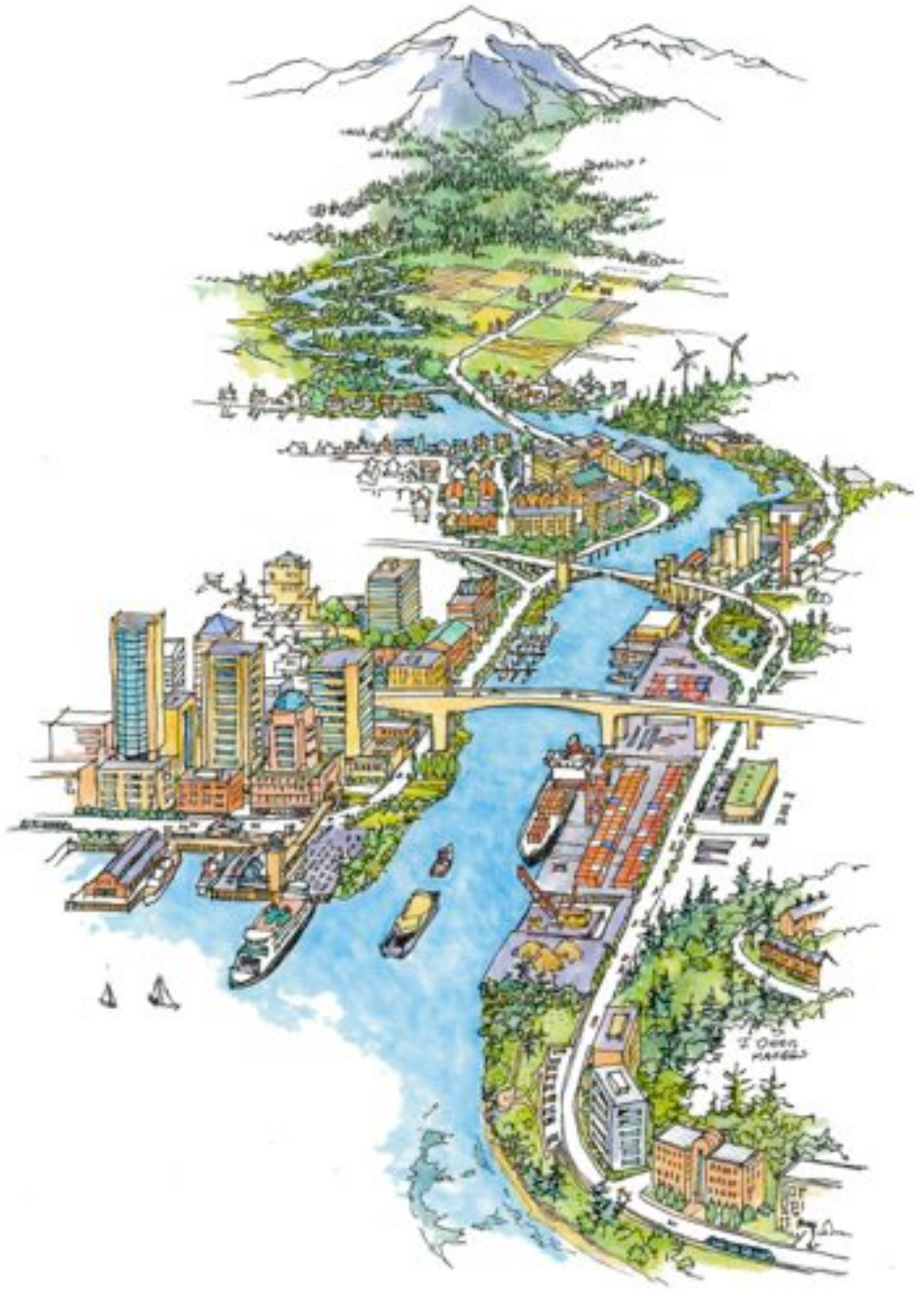
Understanding Stewardship Organizations



Understanding Stewardship Organizations

Seattle/ King County

- key partners
- web search
- private, public, NGO
- ~600 organizations



Survey Data

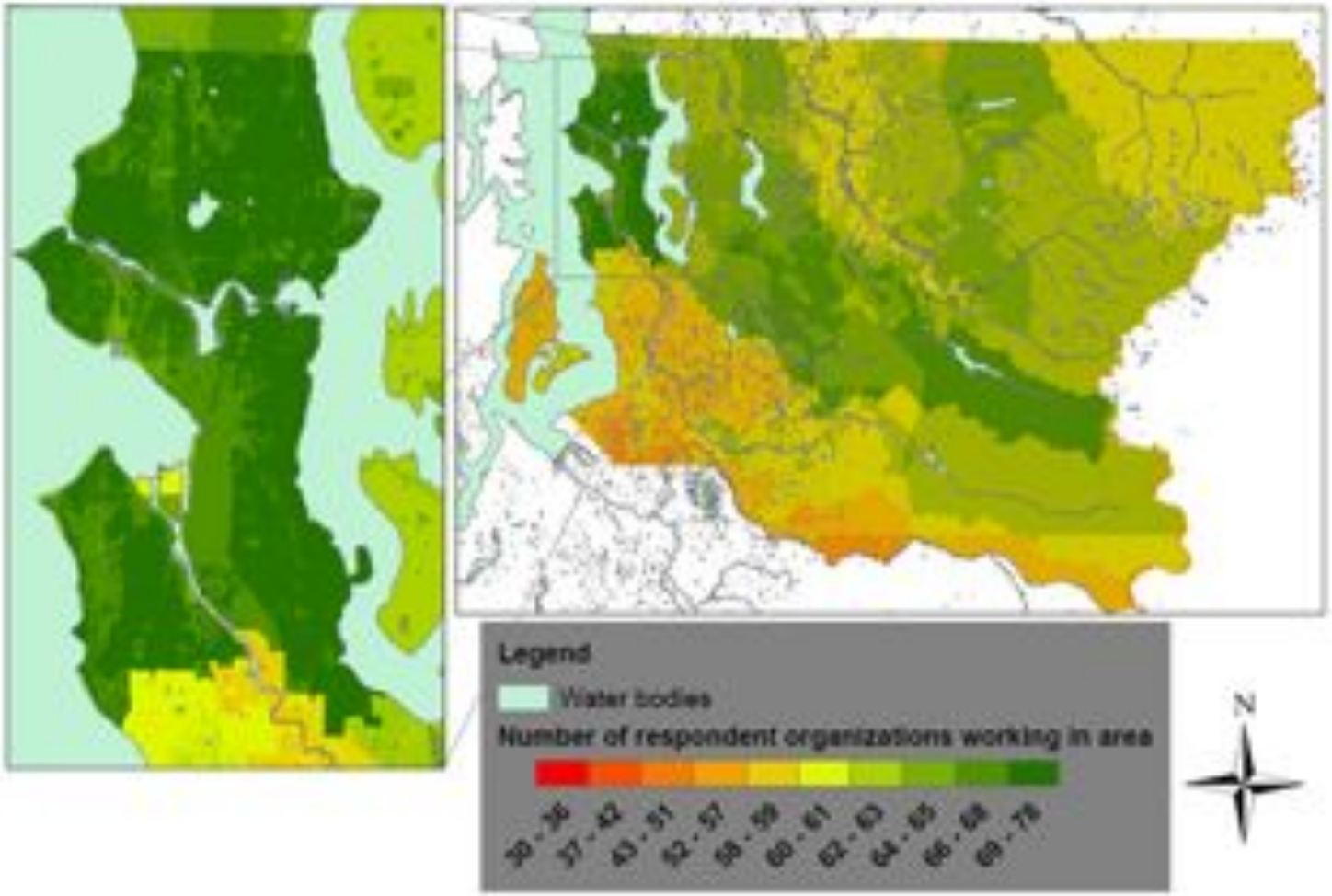
Stewardship Activity Traits

- Type of stewardship activity
- Types of spaces stewarded
- Locations of activity

Organization Traits

- Contact information
- Primary function
- Stewardship motivation
- Size
- Date founded
- Communication frequency
- Sources of funding (general)
- Organizations that have given funding or information
- Organizations that have received funding or information

Stewardship “Turf” Density



- Stewardship density greater in Seattle & Cedar River Watershed
- Stewardship gradients in urban areas defined more by social boundaries verses natural boundaries in rural areas

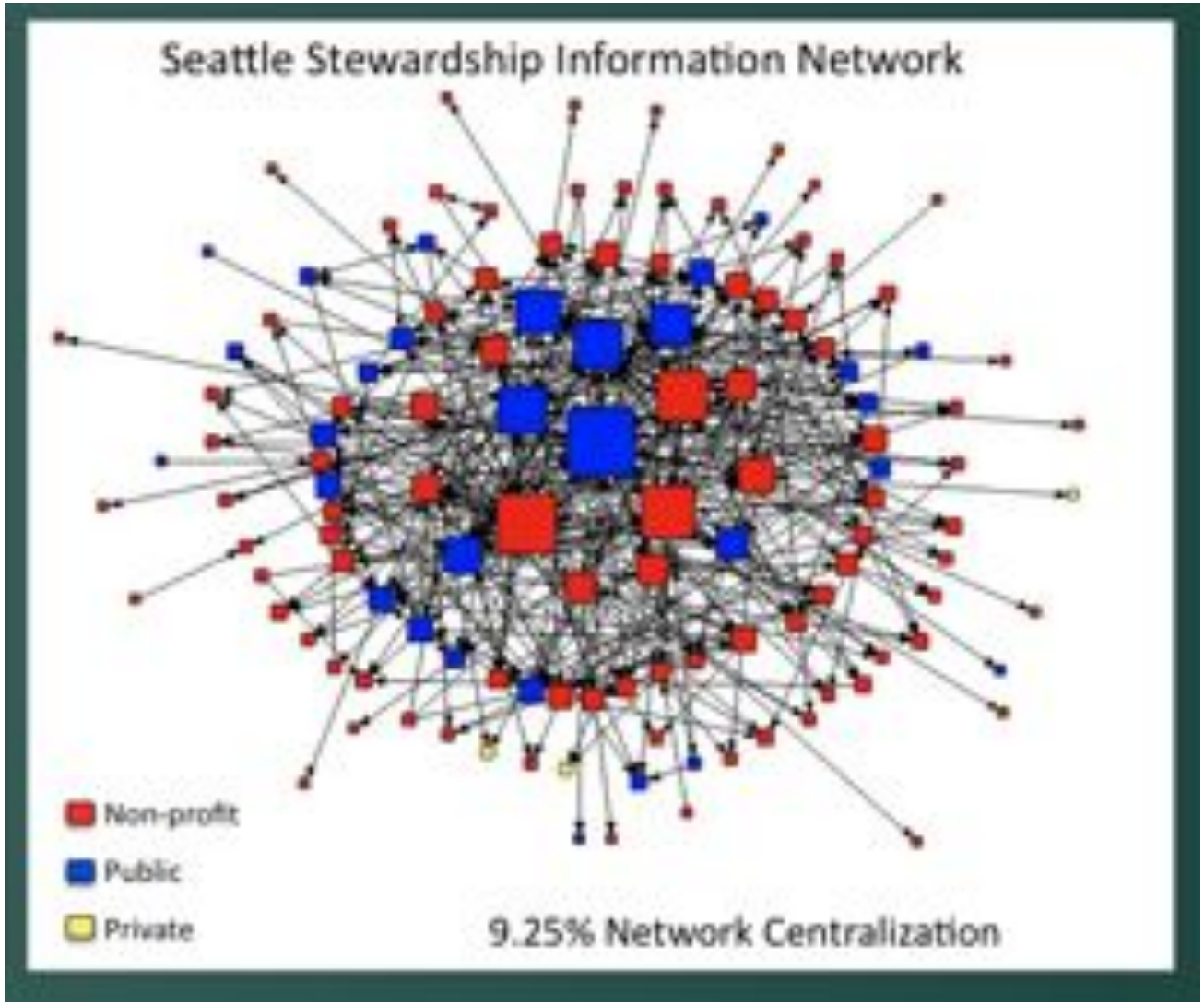
Stewardship Organizations Mission Statements

***Wordle* tag cloud**

civic environmental stewardship

study 3:
organization network analysis

Seattle
Stewardship Organization Networks

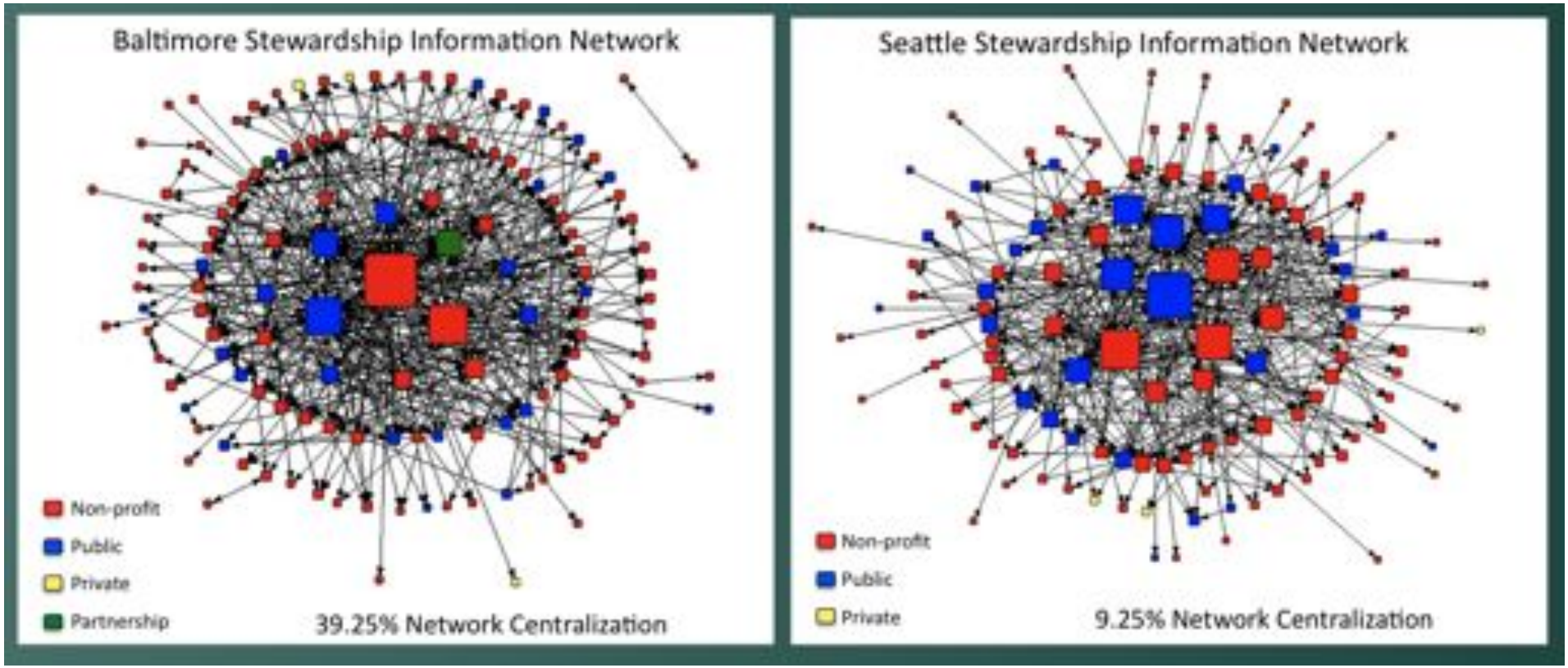


network questions

who work with?
information?
resources?

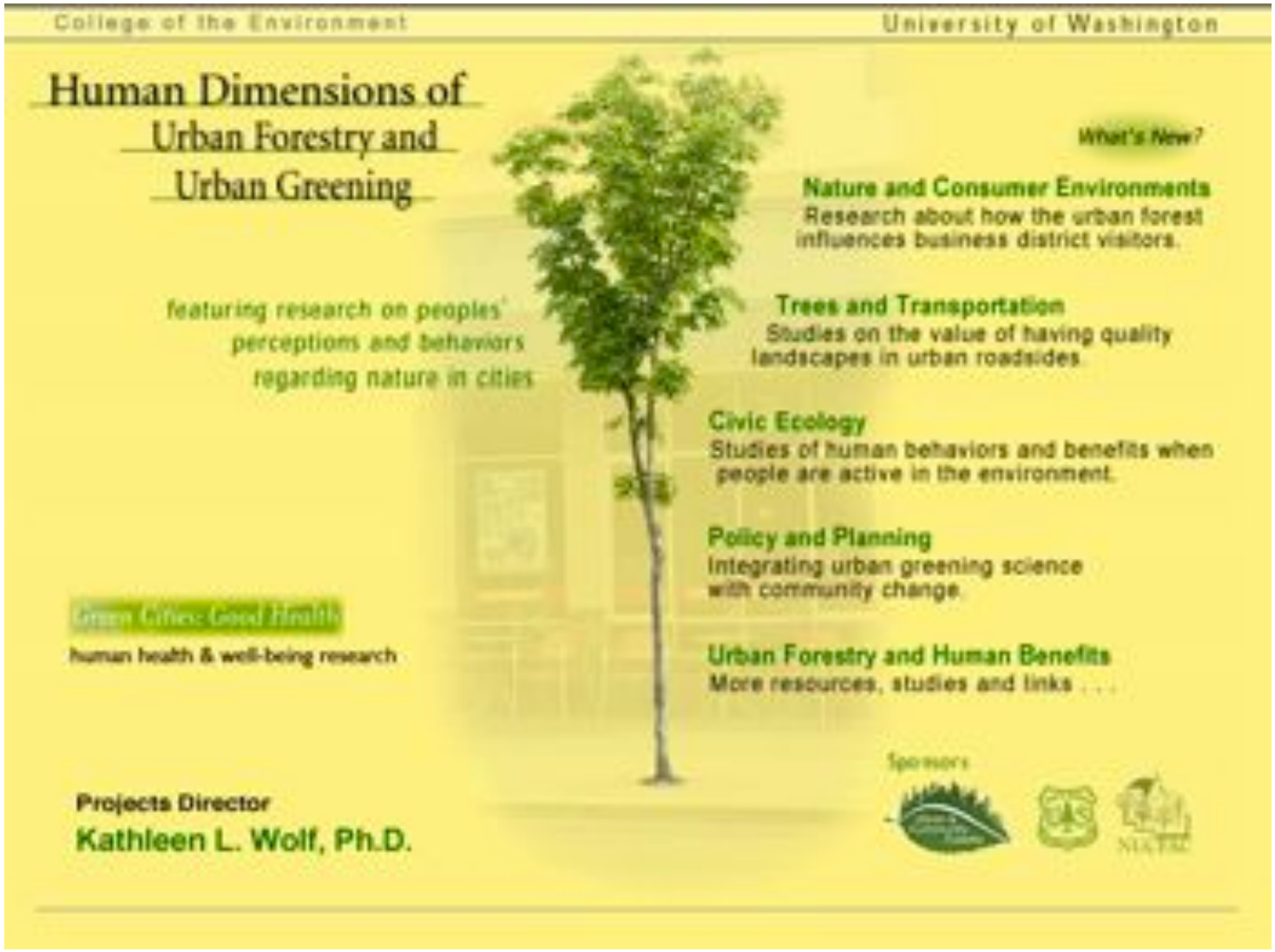
Source: Romolini 2012

Stewardship Organization Networks



- Higher degree of centralization in Baltimore than Seattle networks
- Both networks have disconnected organizations (15% in Baltimore and 13% in Seattle)

Source: Romolini 2012



www.naturewithin.info