

# What do the Birds See?



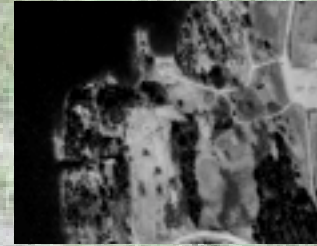
1937



1964



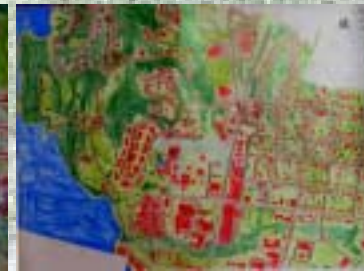
1972



1988



1999



**38% loss of greenspace (1937 to 1999)**

**330% increase in pavement and buildings**

These maps show that pavement and buildings have replaced grass and forests in the Oakledge area drainage basin. Water is absorbed by soil and vegetation, but runs off roads and buildings. This means greater chances of flooding during rainstorms. Also, runoff from thick grass was clean, while runoff from the parking area was contaminated. On the maps, dark green represents trees, light green is fields, brown is roads, red is buildings, blue is water, and yellow is beach

**1660% more runoff from packed dirt than from grass**

By simulating rain on lush grass, GIV students demonstrated that healthy grass allows minimal runoff even during a hurricane. However, packed dirt in a parking area cannot hold nearly as much water under such conditions. In fact, the grass allowed less than 1% runoff, while the parking lot allowed nearly 30% runoff.