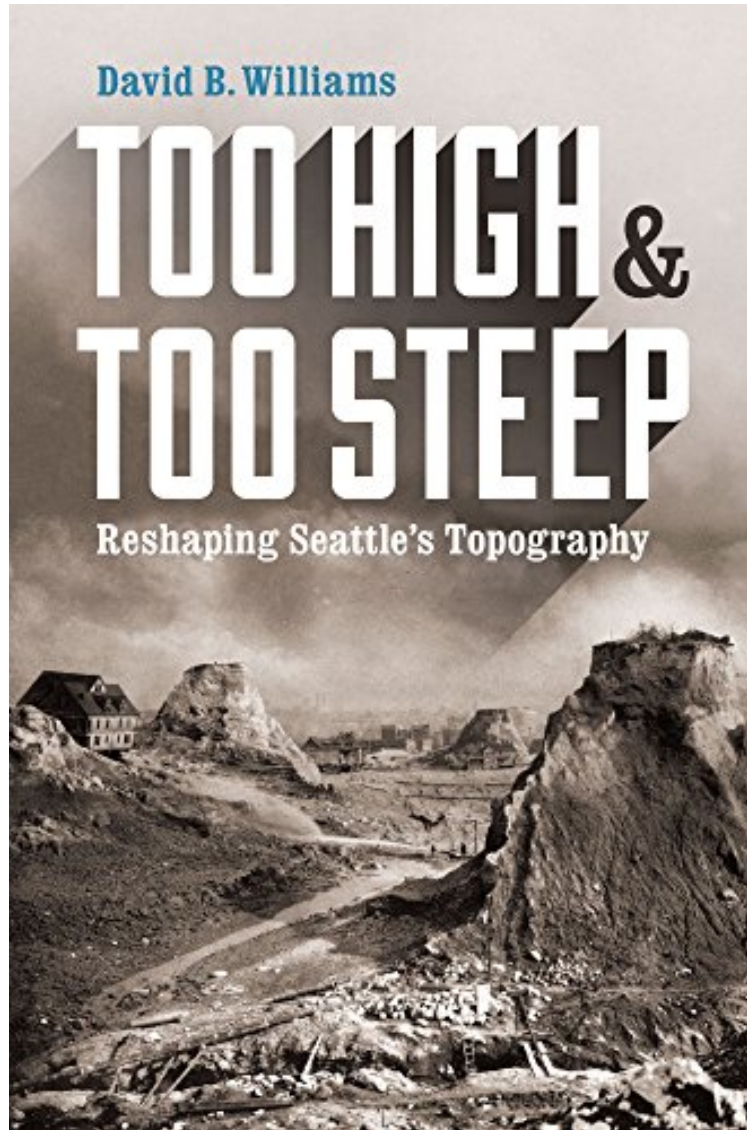


(Read now) Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography

## Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography

*David B Williams*

*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#594395 in Books 2015-08-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x .90 x 6.30l, .0 #File Name: 0295995041253 pages | File size: 32.Mb

**David B Williams : Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Too High and Too Steep: Reshaping Seattle's Topography:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow--living with Seattle's topography.By Polly AirdI thoroughly enjoyed this book. Williams has an excellent knowledge of Seattle and its history and understands topography. It is fascinating to see how Young Seattle took it upon itself to become a functioning and successful city. And we are still doing it--with a new seawall and Bertha digging the new SR-99

tunnel. Williams is able to relate those earlier projects--filling in tidelands; creating Seattle's waterfront; creating the canal, locks, and connection to Lake Washington; and removing Denny Hill (I had heard about the Regrade of Denny Hill for years, but had no idea the extent of the hill or how it was done). Our forebears were visionaries! We still need to worry about getting around, but in addition, we have to deal with rising seas and earthquakes. Williams is a good writer and moves along with the story, with maps and photos from archives. I can't imagine, though, reading this on a Kindle--you really need to see the maps full size.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Thoroughly thoughtful, informative, and entertaining

By Final Flight Too High and Too Steep, the latest book by David B. Williams, is thoroughly thoughtful, informative, and entertaining. His historical perambulations through Seattle's topography, past and present, are an excellent commentary on how people adapt to their geology, geography, and environment until they demand their geology, geography, and environment adapt to them. This is a "must-have" addition to the library of every Seattle resident interested in their city's history. But Too High and Too Steep is also an important addition to the libraries of geographers, historians, and urban planners outside of Seattle. It will serve as a primer to understanding the role of topography in urban development. This new book by David B. Williams will also serve in understanding how far we will go to alter the landscape around us to suit our needs.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bringing Seattle's history alive

By Jared R. Starr Having lived in or around Seattle for most of my 85 years, I had thought often, but not deeply, about the areas history. That all came to an end when I picked up 'TO HIGH TOO STEEP' from the 'new acquisitions' shelf at the Seattle Public Library. After thumbing through the copy I knew I had to have my own and read it through so I bought it. It is a slow read because I have to close my eyes and try to visualize scenes from my memories but I can hardly put the book down. Also I keep having to turn back to maps and photographs as Mr. Williams describes features of the city. I am awed by the amount of research Mr. Williams has put into this book and it brings to life an amazing amount of the history and geology that made my home what it is. I would recommend walking around the waterfront from West Point to the Duwamish Head while using this book as a guide. I plan on doing this before I die.

Residents and visitors in today's Seattle would barely recognize the landscape that its founding settlers first encountered. As the city grew, its leaders and inhabitants dramatically altered its topography to accommodate their changing visions. In Too High and Too Steep, David B. Williams uses his deep knowledge of Seattle, scientific background, and extensive research and interviews to illuminate the physical challenges and sometimes startling hubris of these large-scale transformations, from the filling in of the Duwamish tideflats to the massive regrading project that pared down Denny Hill. In the course of telling this fascinating story, Williams helps readers find visible traces of the city's former landscape and better understand Seattle as a place that has been radically reshaped. Watch the trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af51FU8hHLI>

Williams does a marvelous job of evoking the cityscape that used to be. He clues us in to the spirit of civic ambition that drove Seattle's geographical transformations. He methodically chronicles the stages by which its regrade, canal and landfill projects were accomplished. And he's meticulous about placing his readers on present-day street corners where they can, with some sleight of mind, glimpse the hills, lake shores and tide flats that vanished.--Michael Upchurch "Seattle Times" (01/01/2015) [An] absorbing and accessible book.... [A] fascinating guided tour that residents and visitors can utilize to envision a changing place. I plan to carry it the next time I visit Seattle, and I hope that both its library sales and holiday gift sales will be brisk.--Carl Abbott "Western Historical Quarterly" (01/01/2016)

Williams does a marvelous job of evoking the cityscape that used to be. He clues us in to the spirit of civic ambition that drove Seattle's geographical transformations. He methodically chronicles the stages by which its regrade, canal and landfill projects were accomplished. And he's meticulous about placing his readers on present-day street corners where they can, with some sleight of mind, glimpse the hills, lake shores and tide flats that vanished.--Michael Upchurch "Seattle Times" (01/01/2015) [An] absorbing and accessible book.... [A] fascinating guided tour that residents and visitors can utilize to envision a changing place. I plan to carry it the next time I visit Seattle, and I hope that both its library sales and holiday gift sales will be brisk.--Carl Abbott "Western Historical Quarterly" (01/01/2016)

[An] absorbing and accessible book. . . . [A] fascinating guided tour that residents and visitors can utilize to envision a changing place. I plan to carry it the next time I visit Seattle, and I hope that both its library sales and holiday gift sales will be brisk.--Carl Abbott "Western Historical Quarterly" (01/01/2016) "No matter how well you think you know Seattle, David B. Williams knows it better. On every block, hill, stream, mudflat, or bit of shoreline, Williams has drilled down to the bedrock of revelation. Too High and Too Steep showcases Williams's unique talent for exploring the strange combination of natural history and human passion that continues to shape our fair city. He writes with zest and brio, he sees with acuity, he synthesizes with dazzling leaps through time and space. Williams's awe (in all senses of the word) at what our species has done to this city's geography and topography during its scant history is infectious. Read this book and you will see Seattle in a brilliant new light."?David Laskin, author of The Children's Blizzard and The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the 20th Century "Too High and Too Steep shows the dramatic, visionary sculpting of the Seattle cityscape from founding to the present day?and into the future. Williams

explores the irony that the Emerald City, surrounded by blue water and forested mountains, may be the most engineered metropolis on earth, and he shows us how to discover the original topography, man-made cityscape, and ongoing evidence of glaciers, faults, and tides. Seattle, he convinces us, will continue to shape its landscape, and that landscape in turn will continue to shape Seattle."?Lorraine McConaghy, author of *New Land, North of the Columbia and Warship under Sail*"Seattle, it might be said, is a strange place to build a city, and David Williams's book captures that strangeness beautifully. Through excavations in the archives, musings on the nature of nature, and his own wanderings around the urban landscape, Williams offers us a way to decode?and perhaps come to terms with?the radical transformations that have made the city what it is. Those changes came with a cost, too, a fact that Williams doesn't let us forget."?Coll Thrush, author of *Native Seattle*"In *Too High and Too Steep*, geologist David B. Williams serves as an erudite and witty guide to the ever-changing topography of our city. The story is fast-paced and alive, from native middens, to the Denny regrade, to the modern dismantling of the viaduct. After reading this book, I look out over Seattle, and I can almost feel the earth moving beneath my feet."?Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of *The Urban Bestiary: Encountering the Everyday Wild*"*Too High and Too Steep* is a wonderful, fascinating, and surprisingly poignant rendering of the birth of Seattle, my favorite city. Scrubbed for millions of years by glaciers, inhabited for thousands of years by Native Americans, sculpted for decades by men with volcanic egos, the spirit of Seattle remains true to itself, and yet is informed by the many tremendous forces drawn out in Williams's engrossing, captivating tale. I loved this fabulous book, and consider it required reading for anyone interested in the Northwest and the history of American cities."?Garth Stein, author of *The Art of Racing in the Rain* and *A Sudden Light*About the AuthorDavid B. Williams is the author of several books, including *Cairns: Messengers in Stone* and *The Seattle Street-Smart Naturalist: Field Notes from the City*. He lives in Seattle.