

ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

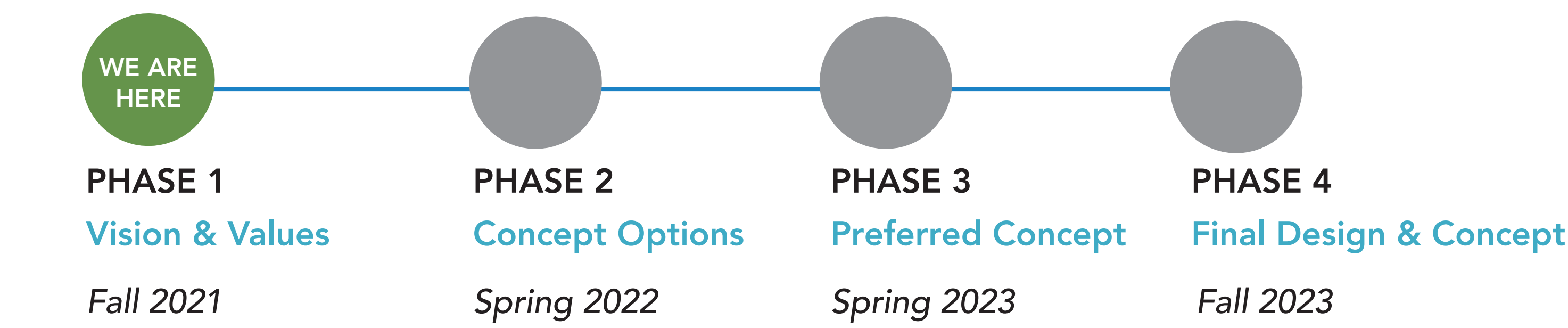
PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Cambie Corridor is growing and so are the demands on its drainage and sewer systems, parks, and public spaces.

To provide critical servicing for the neighbourhood, the Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal Project will explore innovative ways to enable growth while responding to the impact of climate change on our sewer and drainage systems. A blue green system is an engineered solution that uses soil, plants, trees, and parts of the street to manage and treat rainwater more like nature. These systems enable growth by displacing rainwater that would otherwise overwhelm the city’s overburdened pipe system, and instead, allowing this water to be filtered through the soil, cleaned of street contaminants and absorbed into the ground or returned to the atmosphere through evaporation. In addition, these systems improve public spaces and enhance habitat and biodiversity, while creating opportunities to improve how people get around by walking, biking, and rolling.

The Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal project is also looking at ways to create stronger connections between Columbia Park, Oakridge Centre, and Queen Elizabeth Park for both people and wildlife. In the future, this ecological corridor could reach all the way from Queen Elizabeth Park to the Fraser River.

PROJECT TIMELINE



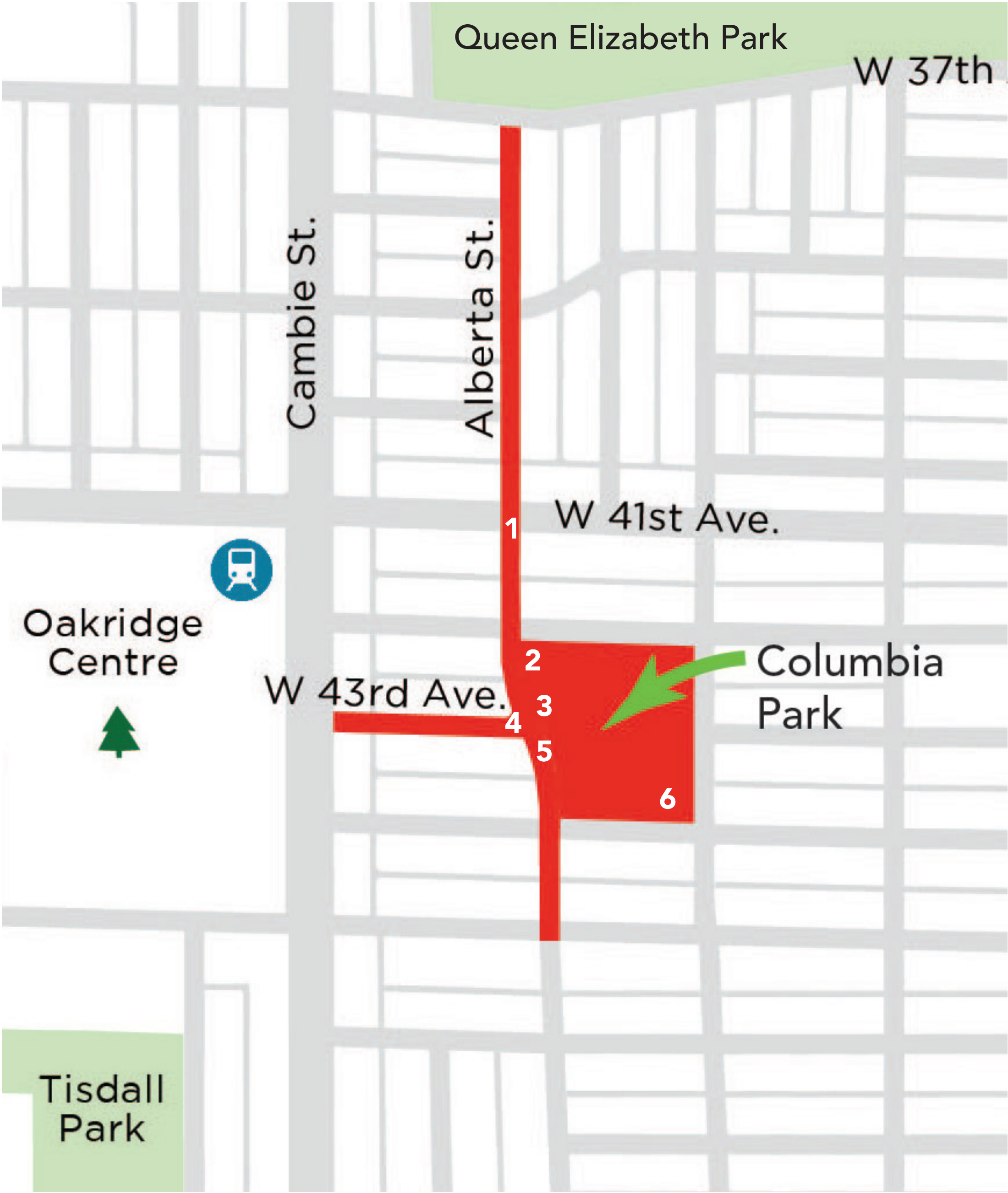
Project Extents



West 43rd Avenue at Columbia Park

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PROJECT MAP & PHOTOS

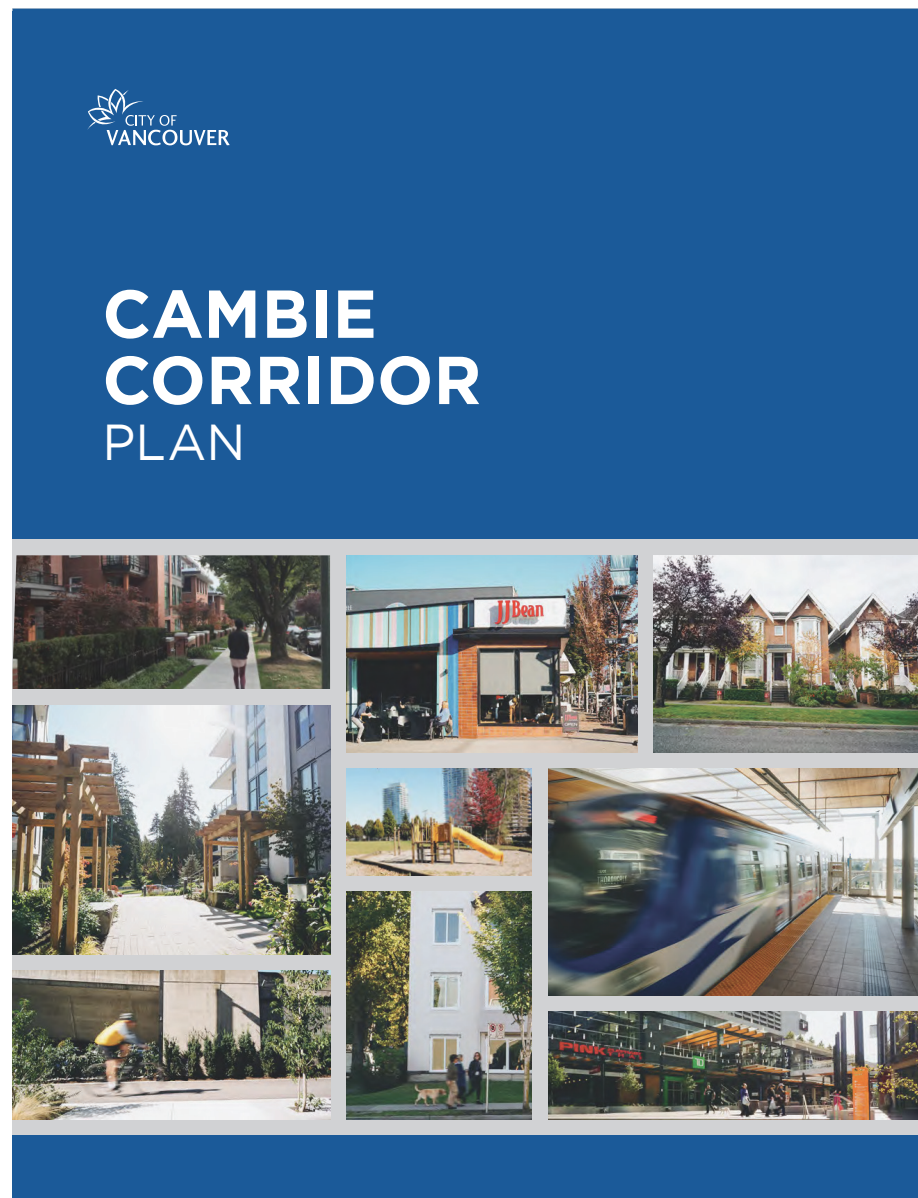


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PAST PLANNING

WHERE WE'VE COME FROM

This project pulls together goals and initiatives from several recent plans and policies, each of which incorporated engagement with the public and stakeholders.



Cambie Corridor Plan

The area around West 41st Avenue and Cambie Street will be an activity hub for the growing population, supporting a range of employment, rapid transportation options, retail, cultural and public spaces, and a variety of housing options.

Relevant guidance:

- Highlights the Alberta Street/Columbia Project in the Cambie Corridor Integrated Water Management Plan (ongoing)
- Highlights the need for improved public spaces, green connections and safe, comfortable streets for walking, biking, and rolling in the Plan area
- Identifies the field house renewal and upgrades in Columbia Park as a 10-year priority in the Public Benefits Strategy
- Identifies Alberta Street as a Park Connector Street and Urban Trail in the Cambie Corridor Public Realm Plan



VanPlay

VanPlay, Vancouver's Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan, provides direction on priorities for the renewal of parks and park amenities, such as playgrounds, water play, and ball diamonds.

Relevant guidance:

- Improve park resilience for a growing population
- Connect from "Little Mountain to Big River" (Queen Elizabeth Park to the Fraser River) with biodiversity and active transportation
- Improve health, wellness, equity, and social inclusion through park renewals

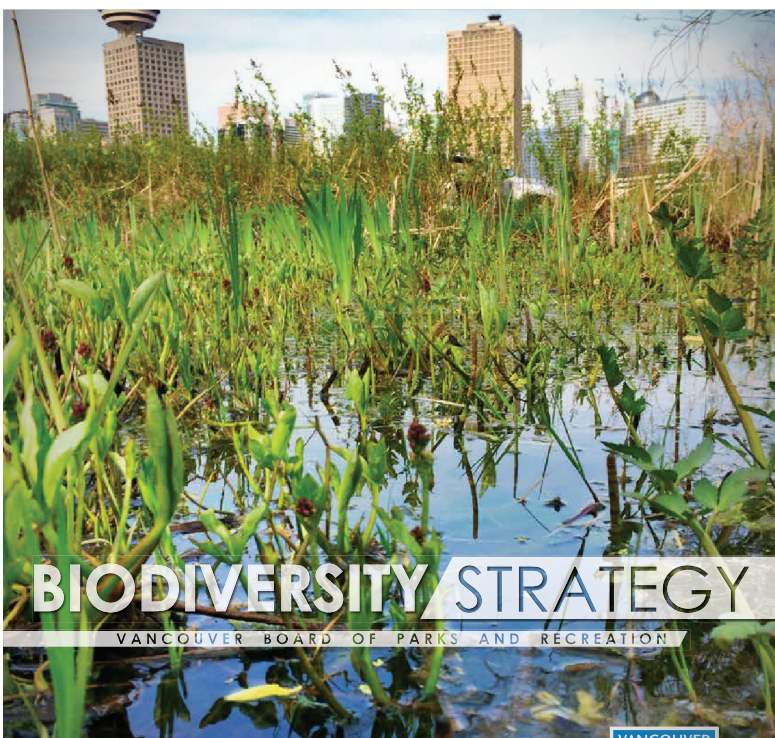


Rain City Strategy

The Rain City Strategy reimagines and transforms how we manage rainwater with the goals of improving water quality, resilience, and livability through creating healthy urban ecosystems.

Relevant strategy:

- Use rainwater management with multiple benefits ("blue green systems")

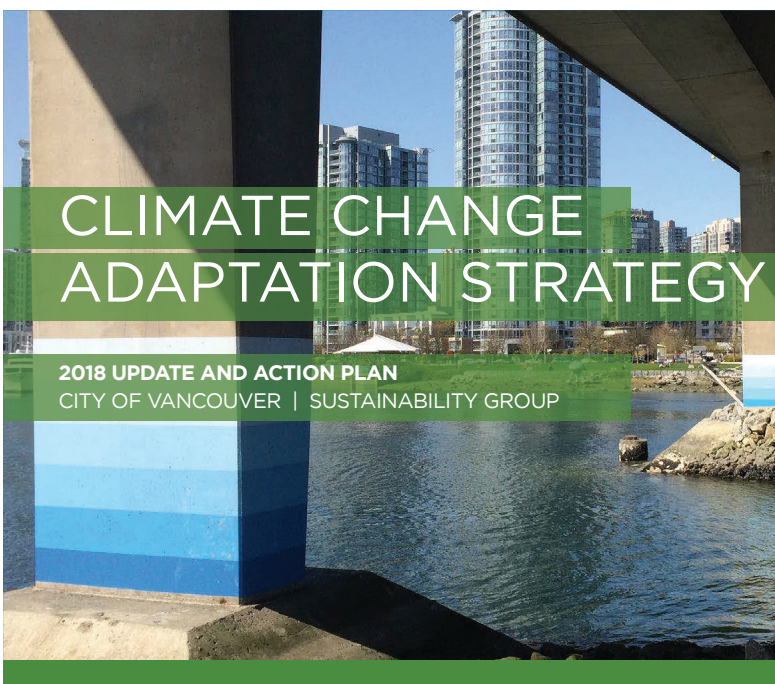


Biodiversity Strategy

The Biodiversity Strategy lays out goals to increase the amount and quality of Vancouver's natural areas and to support biodiversity and increase access to nature.

Relevant strategies:

- Add native planting areas and more trees
- Improve the biodiversity connections from Queen Elizabeth to Langara



Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Vancouver is striving to ensure a vibrant, livable, and resilient city in the face of climate change.

Relevant strategies:

- Green rainwater infrastructure
- Enhanced natural areas in parks
- Safe streets for walking and cycling



Urban Forest Strategy

The Vancouver Park Board's Urban Forest Strategy outlines the importance of Vancouver's trees in supporting biodiversity, adding beauty to our neighbourhoods, mitigating climate change, and contributing to a healthy city.

Relevant strategies:

- Improve health of street and park trees



Transportation 2040

Transportation 2040 is a long-term strategic vision for the city that will help guide transportation and land use decisions, and public investments for the years ahead.

Relevant recommendation:

- Enhancing active transportation (movement by walking, cycling, rolling, and transit)



Greenest City Action Plan

The Greenest City Action Plan outlines specific targets to help improve sustainability across the city.

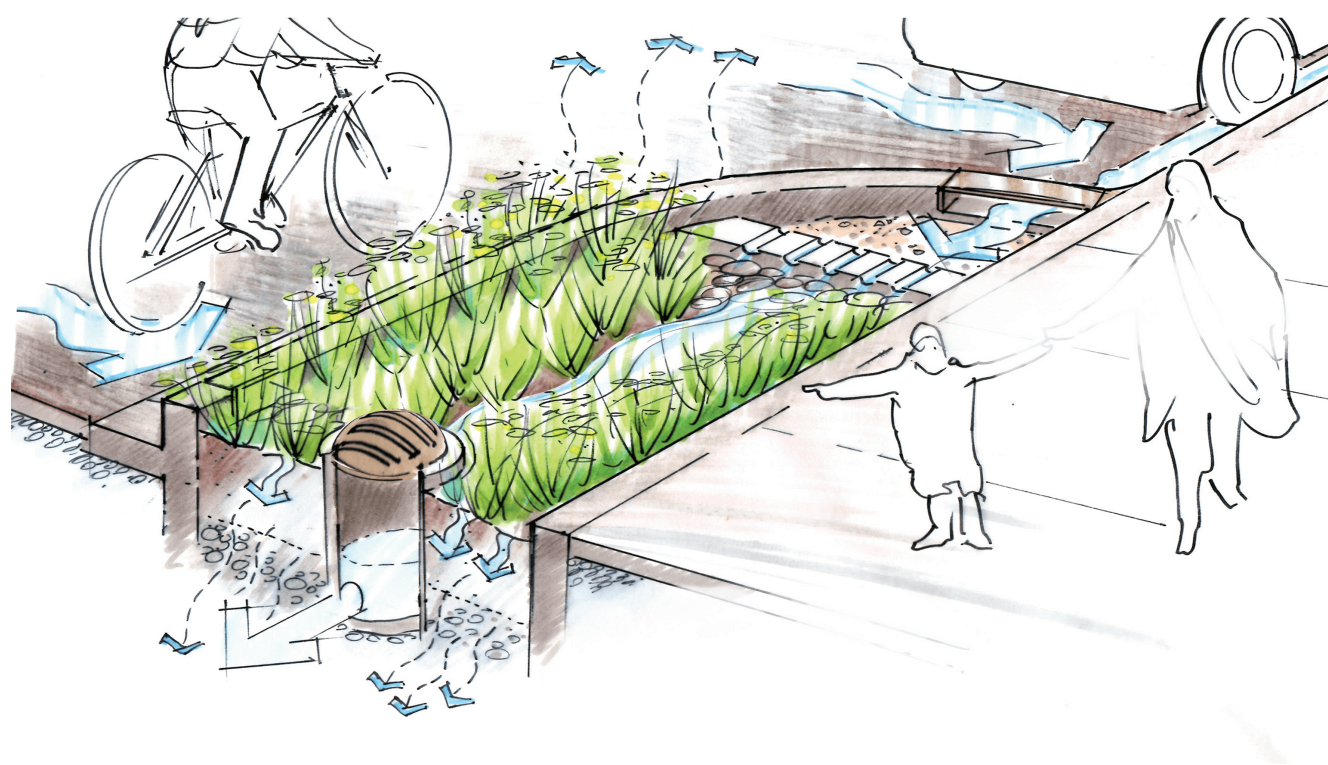
Relevant actions:

- Enable green transportation
- Provide access to nature
- Create healthy ecosystems

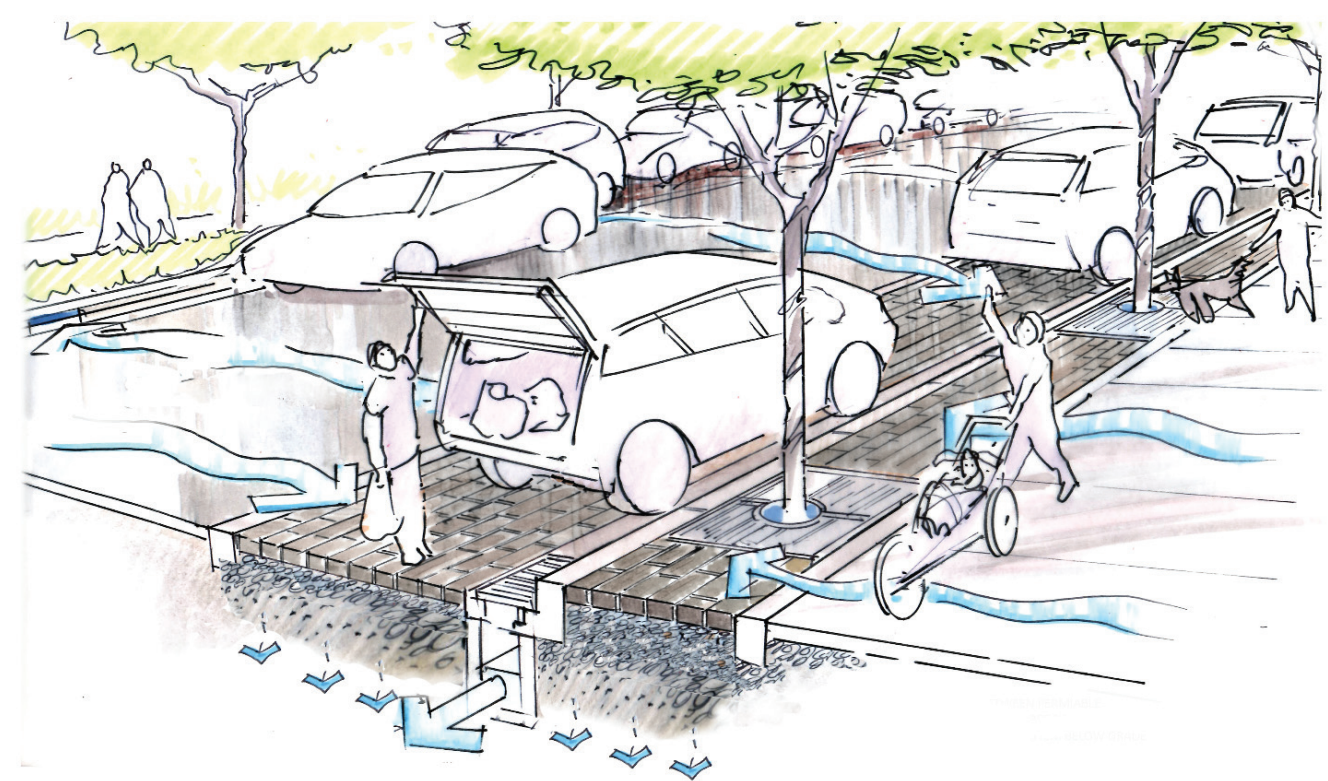


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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Rain garden example
from the Rain City Strategy



Permeable pavement example
from the Rain City Strategy

Why is this project needed?

This project is required to meet the drainage and sewer servicing needs for the growing Cambie Corridor neighbourhood and respond to climate change.

What is a blue green system?

A blue green system is an engineered solution that uses soil, plants, trees, and parts of the street to manage and treat rainwater more like nature. These systems enable growth by displacing rainwater that would otherwise overwhelm the city's overburdened pipe system, and instead, allowing this water to be filtered through the soil, cleaned of street contaminants and absorbed into the ground or returned to the atmosphere through evaporation. In addition, these systems improve public spaces and enhance habitat and biodiversity, while creating opportunities to improve how people get around by walking, biking, and rolling.

Why are we using a "blue green system" approach?

In the past, improving drainage was limited to installing bigger pipes and moving rainwater to the Fraser River as fast as possible. City and Parks Board staff are undertaking a study to explore how blue green systems can support pipe upgrades and also enable rainwater to be captured and treated closer to where it falls, thereby avoiding or

delaying costly upgrades, mimicking the natural water cycle, and creating a cascade of local benefits. A 'blue green' approach will explore how utility upgrades and green rainwater infrastructure work together to support growth and climate resilience, bring more nature to the urban landscape, and improve connections for people and nature.

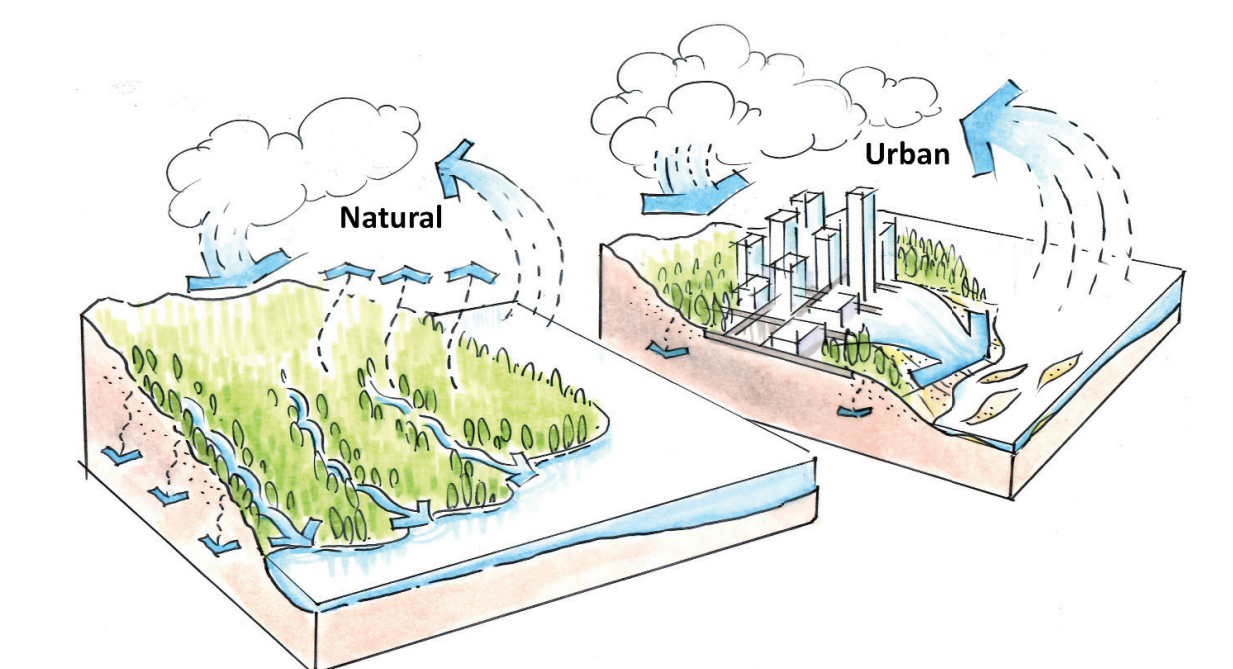
Is this project part of the Cambie Corridor plan?

It builds on the important work of previous plans including the Cambie Corridor Plan and its associated Public Realm Plan. Key aspects of the Cambie Corridor Plan and the Public Realm Plan that relate to this project include:

- The area around West 41st Avenue and Cambie St. will be an activity hub for the growing population, supporting a range of employment, rapid transportation options, retail, cultural and public spaces, and a variety of housing options.
- The neighbourhood will include green connections and spaces to gather that enable people to safely and comfortably walk, bike and roll to and from destinations.
- New parks and open spaces will be added while existing parks and open spaces, like Columbia Park, will be improved. These improvements are needed to support the neighbourhood's growing population.
- Alberta Street is identified as a "Park Connector Street" between Queen Elizabeth Park and Columbia Park. Park Connector Streets provide clear connections to and from parks and include planted areas with opportunities for green rainwater infrastructure.



West 41st Avenue Future Land Use
from the Cambie Corridor Plan



Natural vs. urban drainage systems
from the Rain City Strategy

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PRECEDENT EXAMPLES

Cities around the world are exploring creative solutions to the challenges of increased flooding and growing demands on urban drainage systems.

The project team will take inspiration from innovative green rainwater infrastructure projects (such as the projects listed here) when considering options for integrating green rainwater infrastructure in Columbia Park and along Alberta Street and West 43rd Avenue.

Why these projects inspire us

- On-site rainwater collection and treatment
- Visible rainwater as water feature
- Curb extension rain gardens
- Native plantings and bio-filtration
- Permeable and porous paving
- Urban wetlands
- High habitat and biodiversity value
- Integration of active transportation
- Aesthetically and socially valuable



Hinge Park - Vancouver, BC



Venema Creek - Seattle, WA



Tanner Springs Park - Portland, OR



High Point Bioswale - Seattle, WA



Growing Vine Street, - Seattle, WA



Sunset Park Green Infrastructure Project
- Vancouver, BC

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PARK CONTEXT & NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Summary of nearby and future park amenities

- Paths and trails
- Multi-sport courts
- Ball diamonds
- Golf course
- Passive lawn areas
- Natural areas
- Gardens
- Play spaces
- Public art
- Event spaces

Potential improvements For Columbia Park

- More space for people walking, biking, and rolling
- Green rainwater infrastructure
- New trees, shrubs, and groundcovers plants
- Seating
- Gathering areas
- Public art
- Playground renewal
- Waterplay



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WHAT WE'VE HEARD

PAST ENGAGEMENT THEMES

The following themes emerged during recent engagement for other planning initiatives in the Cambie Corridor and around green rainwater infrastructure:



Landscapes + Planting + Water Management

- Support for area designed and managed as habitat for bees, birds, other pollinators
- Functional landscapes – habitat creation, micro- climate creation, rainwater management
- Many trees & planting – large, lush, native species for shade & for birds, wildlife



Park preferences

- Pathways throughout
- Multi-use passive space
- Desire for a natural and green park
- Inclusivity
- Covered areas for shade and rain cover
- Park design that is sustainable and has a natural feel
- Designing a park with a variety of seating and fostering a sense of inclusion
- Accessible and inviting
- Safe and connected



Maintenance, Stewardship, Education

- Stewardship and maintenance are essential considerations
- Public awareness and education is key for successful implementation
- Concern about long- term maintenance of public spaces



Street Preferences

- Nature & biodiversity, including street trees
- Water features & management
- Active transportation
- Places to sit, play & gather as a community
- Daylight the creek



Concerns

- Concern that amenities will not adequately serve Cambie Corridor's projected population
- Concerns about "Park Connector Streets" impacting the flow of traffic
- Need to maximize open space & usable green space throughout Cambie Corridor

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HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

How will public and stakeholder feedback influence the project?

Public and stakeholder feedback will help identify what improvements residents would like to see for Alberta Street and West 43rd Avenue and Columbia Park and the best options to capture and clean rainwater in the park and local streets.

Get involved on Shape Your City and tell us your Vision!

- Ask a question
- Sign-up for project notices
- Complete the online survey

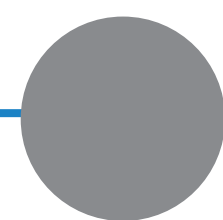
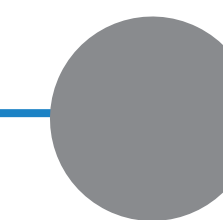
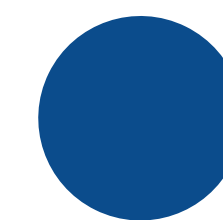


shapeyourcity.ca/alberta-columbia

Your feedback is important!

Phase 1 Engagement Timeline

WE ARE HERE



Vision and values:
Fall 2021



Concept Options:
Spring 2022



Preferred Concept:
Spring 2023

