



ALBERTA STREET BLUE GREEN SYSTEM AND COLUMBIA PARK RENEWAL

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

NOVEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

What's Happening

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

To provide critical infrastructure for the neighbourhood, the Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal Project will explore innovative ways to address stormwater capacity, enable growth, and respond to climate change in our sewer and drainage systems.

The Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal project is 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.

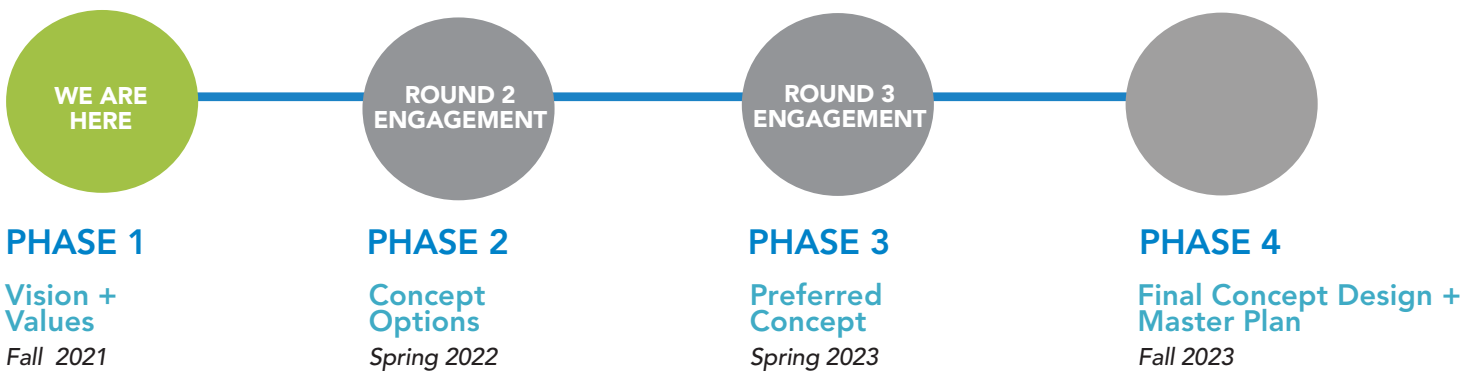


Project Boundary



Illustration of a Blue Green System

Project Timeline



ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Phase 1 Engagement

We asked how people currently use Alberta Street, 43rd Avenue, and Columbia Park and what should be prioritized in the future. Engagement included an online survey, and outreach to get the word out was done through the Shape Your City website, notifications through mail-outs, on-site signage, emails, and social media. Highlights from the survey results are summarized here.



151

Completed surveys
between **September 23**
and **October 21 2021**

Participation

There were a total of **655 public interactions** during Phase 1 of engagement on The Alberta Street Blue Green System & Columbia Park Renewal Project including surveys responses, social media interactions and comments, and conversations with the public. Of the 151 survey respondents, 78% were users of Columbia Park and 40% said their children use the park.



West 43rd Avenue Looking East



Columbia Park at Alberta Street



Ball Diamond at Columbia Park



WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT COLUMBIA PARK

Top activities at Columbia Park today:



The top activity is **jogging/running** (62% of adults). It is also one of the top 3 activities for children.*

Other popular activities for both adults and children are:

Playing at the playground
41%

Sitting or Reading
37%

Informal Play
33%

Picnics
31%



Playground at Columbia Park

"A lot of people exercise around Columbia Park, whether that's **walking, running, biking**, you name it."

Priorities for the future:

When asked about future improvements for Columbia Park, people responded that they want to see:

Improved play spaces
13%

Casual seating areas
12%

Safe places to walk, jog, and roll
11%

Open lawn
10%

Spaces that support biodiversity
9%

Picnic areas
8%

Rain gardens
8%

Sports fields
7%

"I have lived in the area for 14 years and have dreamed about Columbia park being revitalized into a **more naturalistic setting with welcoming play spaces** for younger kids as well as **outdoor fitness** areas for adults."

"I would certainly emphasize a kids area, **playground, water park, and bathrooms** are really really needed!"

* Childrens' (under 18 years old) uses of the park as reported by parents who completed the survey.



WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT ALBERTA STREET AND WEST 43RD AVENUE

Top uses on Alberta Street and West 43rd Avenue today:



The top use of the streets is currently walking or rolling (50%).



43% drive on Alberta Street
34% drive on West 43rd Avenue



37% bike on Alberta Street
30% bike on West 43rd Avenue



10% park on Alberta Street
10% park on West 43rd Avenue

“Alberta Street has **potential to become a great pedestrian corridor**, right now my experience is that Alberta north of 41st is mostly local traffic or cars shortcutting onto Cambie from 41st.”

“Parking space in Vancouver is a hot commodity. Please **leave street parking space** available around the park instead of imposing restrictions.”

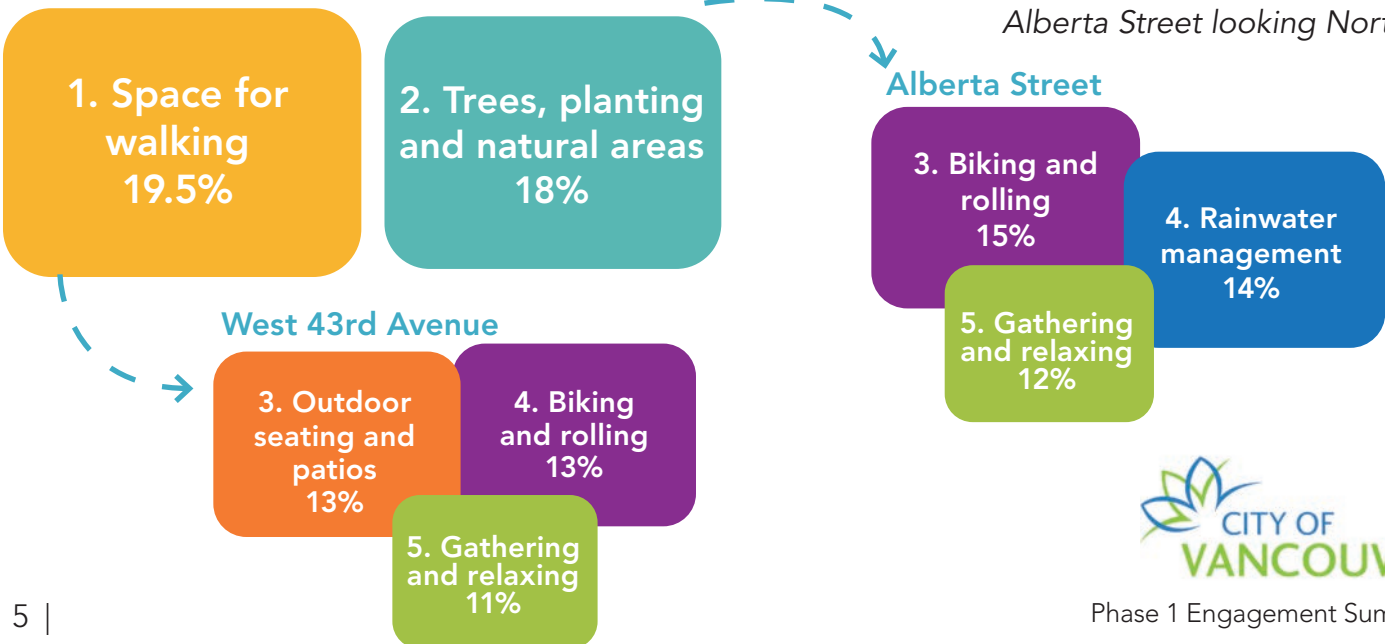


Alberta Street looking North

Priorities for the future:

When asked for their **top 5 choices** out of 10 options for improvements for Alberta Street and West 43rd Avenue, people responded that they want to see:

Both Streets



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK ON PROJECT GOALS AND OTHER FEEDBACK

Top Goals for the Alberta Street Blue Green System and Columbia Park Renewal Project:

Of 11 draft project goals, there is the greatest support for increasing green space for casual use and relaxation and creating safe, accessible places for walking, rolling, and biking. Other top priorities include protecting and enhancing trees and habitat, building climate resilient drainage systems and improving play spaces. Lower priorities included improved water quality and space for organized sports.



Spaces for casual use/relaxing **72%**



Safe places to walk, roll, and bike **56%**



Trees and habitat **49%**



Climate-resilient drainage **48%**



Improved play spaces **41%**

"It would be wonderful if there is any **artwork or signage** to increase public knowledge about urban ecosystems"

"**Maintain open space** - it is precious in the city"

Use native plantings and **create "wild" areas** of nature for native pollinators and birds. These areas will also **absorb and cleanse water** runoff.

Other Draft Goals:

Improve and protect water quality and aquatic ecosystems in Fraser River by cleaning rainwater run-off pollutants and reducing risks of sewage overflows (8%)

Keep space for organized sports (8%)

Support physical and mental health and fitness (7%)

Foster connections with nature (5%)

Build community pride and togetherness (4%)

Support land use plan (3%)



KEY TAKE-AWAYS

Across all the questions, there was a strong support for places to:



walk, roll and bike,

relax and socialize,



and play.

We also heard that the park and street setting should prioritize more **trees** and **habitat** and include **rainwater management**.



Challenges and barriers to using the park included distance to the park (17%) and difficulty of access by walking or biking (8%). Survey respondents also cited lack of desired features (13%) and natural features in the park (9%).

Other suggestions and identified opportunities included community gardens, multi-sport courts, outdoor fitness opportunities and space for festivals, events and performance in Columbia Park.



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps

The feedback from Phase 1 Engagement will be used to inform the design of three concept options for the project, including drainage design, new streetscape design and amenities, and park upgrades. In Spring 2022, the community will be able to provide feedback on the three concept options to help develop a preferred concept.

How to Get Involved:

Look out for a survey!



In **Phase 2** we will be asking for feedback on the **3 concept options**.

Keep up to date!

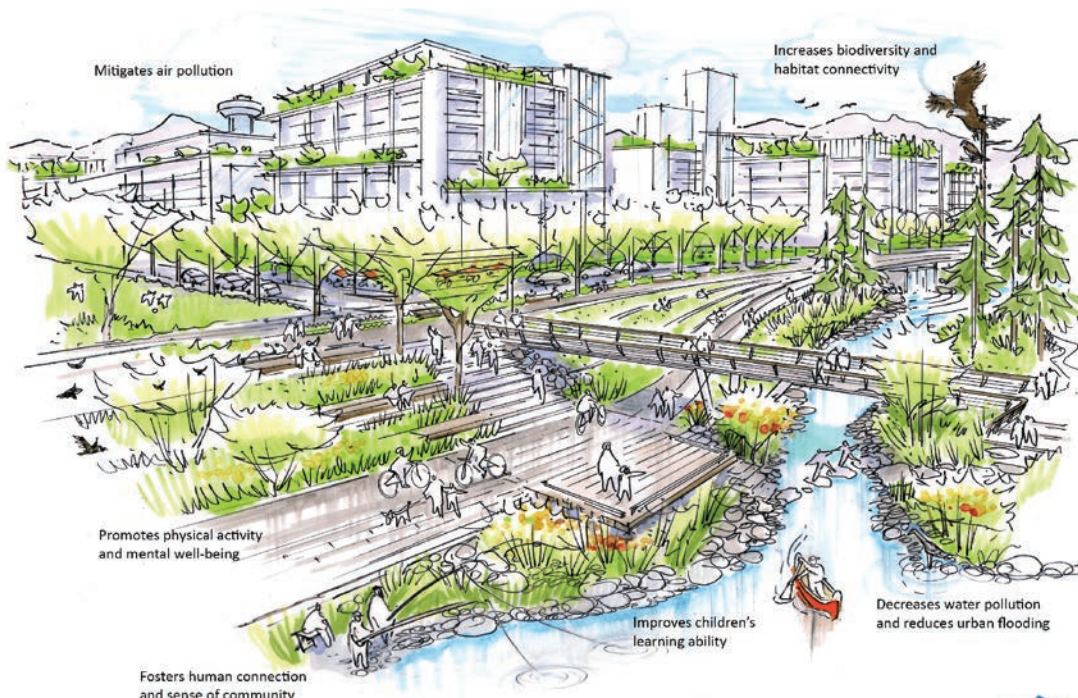


Sign up for project updates at [Shapeyourcity.ca](https://shapetheyourcity.ca).

Ask a question!



For more information and to ask a question visit shapetheyourcity.ca/alberta-columbia



Benefits of nature in the City