GASTOWN PUBLIC SPACES

The City is investing in Gastown through needed repairs, the Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot and a Public Spaces Plan, which will guide the enhancement of public spaces, street network improvements and future investment in the area.

Repairs

Key sidewalk locations and renewal of Maple Tree Square and Trounce Alley.



Water Street Pedestrian Zone

Learnings will shape future pedestrian zones and long-term vision for Water Street.

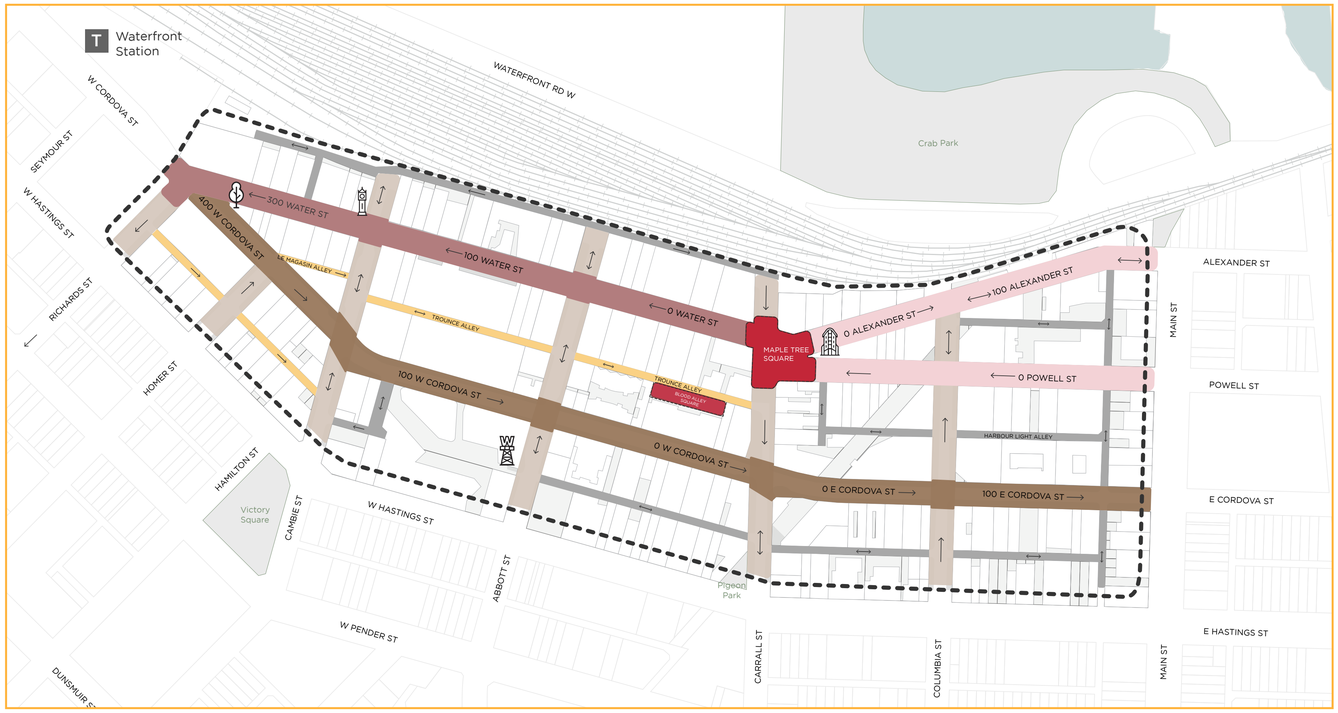


Public Spaces Plan

Exploring longer-term improvements to laneways, public spaces and a pedestrianized Water.



GASTOWN PUBLIC SPACES PLAN PROJECT AREA



Gastown is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Indian Band), the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish Nation), and the səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) First Nations.

The City is working in partnership with the local Nations to create the Gastown Public Spaces Plan, advance reconciliation and support the visibility of the local Nations on their lands.

TIMELINE

Spring 2023
Council motion: A people-focused Gastown

June to September 2023
Prepare for community conversations

October to November 2023
Gather community feedback on Gastown's streets and public spaces

Spring 2024
Interm Maple Tree Square repairs

Summer 2024
Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot

WE ARE HERE

Summer to fall 2024
Assess how we can enhance and connect Gastown's streets and public spaces

Winter 2025
Emerging directions on Gastown Public Spaces Plan to Council

Spring 2025
Refine designs and ideas for Gastown Public Spaces Plan

Summer 2025
Potential Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot (pending Council direction)

Fall 2025
Gather feedback on draft Gastown Public Spaces Plan

Winter 2026
Gastown Public Spaces Plan to Council

GASTOWN PUBLIC SPACES PLAN

Key Takeaways From Phase One Engagement



Support for project objectives with added focus on safety and cleanliness

Most survey respondents felt the draft objectives captured what they would like to see for Gastown's public spaces. We also heard that it was important to make public spaces for low-income residents more welcoming.

We heard a lot of excitement, as well as some concern about the pedestrianization of Water Street.

The community identified the following key considerations for pedestrianizing Water Street:

- Increase safety and cleanliness
- Reduce/ban/limit vehicles
- Add public washrooms
- Activate and program Water Street

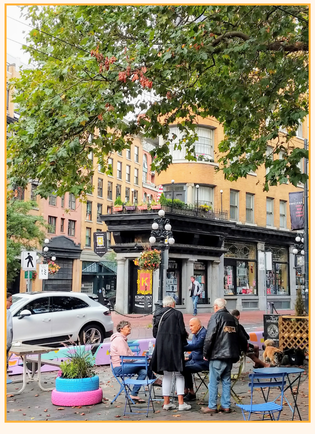


The top improvements desired for Gastown's public spaces were:

- Make them cleaner
- Provide more lighting
- More plants and greenery
- Reduce conflicts between people driving, walking and cycling
- Make it safer to walk, cycle, use a mobility device

The most important aspects for the look and feel of Gastown's public spaces today include:

- Look of historical streets
- The feeling that you are in a unique place in the city
- Trees along the streets
- The lightning and atmosphere



The top things people enjoy doing in Gastown's streets and public spaces include:

- Walking around
- Dining out at restaurants, sitting at a patio
- Shopping
- Meeting friends/hanging out

Walking was the most common way people travel to and/or through Gastown. The top common barriers to moving around Gastown were:

- Concerns about vehicle traffic
- Condition of streets and sidewalks (e.g. too narrow, uneven surfaces)
- Lack of cycling infrastructure

To read the full engagement summary visit vancouver.ca/gastown

Project Goal

Enhance Gastown's streets and public spaces, and create a bold plan to pedestrianize Water Street either seasonally or year-round.

Revised Project Objectives

- Make the **local Nations,** xʷməθkʷəy̓əm**,** Sḵwx̱wú7mesh and səlilwətaɬ visible on their lands
- Support a **vibrant public life** for residents, visitors and businesses
- Support many **different communities to use and enjoy public space**, including urban Indigenous communities and low income residents in the Downtown Eastside
- Provide **convenient access** to **homes, businesses and destinations**
- Improve **accessibility** and **durability** of the street materials
- **Evolve** and **deepen** the **unique heritage feel** of the area
- Enhance the **sense of safety, stewardship** and **care** in the public realm ****New***



A PEDESTRIANIZED WATER STREET

The pedestrian zone pilot is an opportunity to learn about the experience of pedestrianizing Water Street. This information will help shape future pedestrian zones and inform a long-term vision for pedestrianizing Water Street as part of the Gastown Public Spaces Plan.

We are learning through studies, observations, surveys and feedback.

We worked with the local Nations, Gastown Business Improvement Society, community organizations, event organizers, and businesses to create a vibrant and welcoming experience on Water Street.

SOME KEY ELEMENTS OF THE WATER STREET PEDESTRIAN ZONE PILOT:



Partnership with local Nations

Art installations and storytelling courtesy of Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).



Shared public seating

Provide places for people to gather and socialize.

Supporting businesses

Simplify permitting, expand patios and merchandise displays, and waive some fees.



Community-led events, activations, and street entertainment

Launched the “Open Streets Permit”, as a new and easy way for local businesses, community organizations and residents to bring their creative activations to life



Cleaning and maintenance plan

Increase cleaning to help keep the pedestrian zone area inviting.

Community safety strategy

Develop a holistic approach to community safety including daily peer ambassador support and additional peer initiatives.



Biking and rolling

Make it easy to bike and roll to Gastown with new Mobi Public Bike Share Stations and Bike Valet.

Maintaining local access

Two car-light blocks along Water Street for convenient vehicle pick-up and drop-off, loading, and parkade access.

Take our online survey to share your feedback about the Water Street Pedestrian Zone Pilot.

SCAN ME

完成我們的網上調查。提供自動翻 譯服務。
完成我们的在线问卷调查。提供自动 翻译服务。
ਸਾਡਾ ਔਨਲਾਈਨ ਸਰਵੇਖਣ ਪੂਰਾ ਕਰੋ। ਸਵੈ-ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ।
Kumpletuhin ang aming online survey. May makukuhang mga awtomatikong pagsasaling-wika.

Complete nuestra encuesta en línea. Traducciones automáticas disponibles.
Hoàn thành bản khảo sát trực tuyến của chúng tôi. Có nút dịch tự động.
온라인 설문조사를 작성해주세요. 자동번역 기능도 설정 가능합니다.