

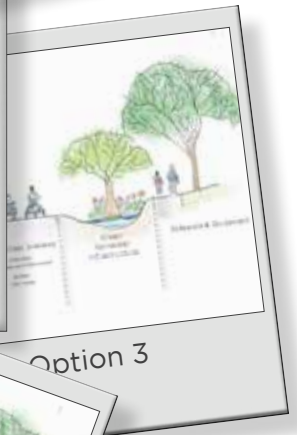
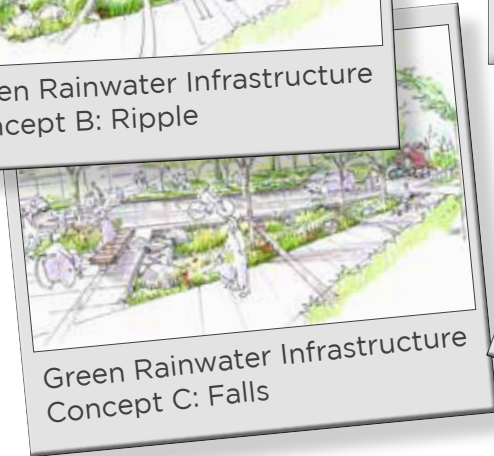
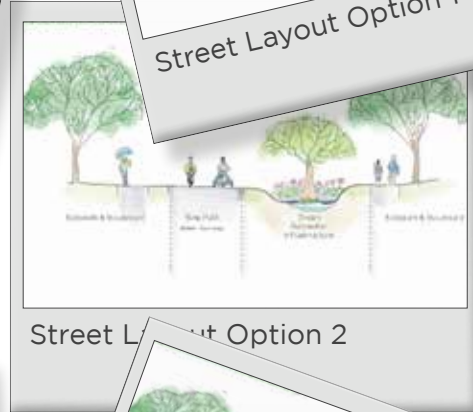
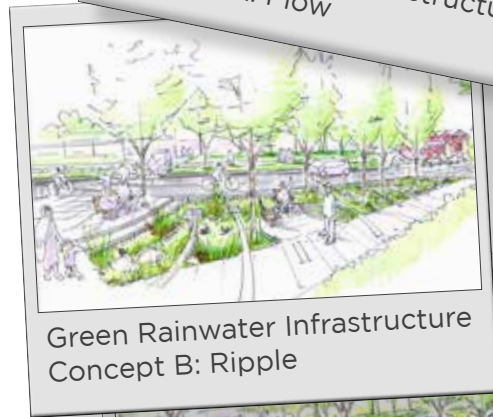
ST. GEORGE RAINWAY

PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Concept Design

The St. George Rainway is a City of Vancouver project that will deliver core utility services to manage rainwater in the neighbourhood, through the use of Green Rainwater Infrastructure and changes to the street layout. The community of the St George Rainway area continues to be engaged, curious, creative, and thoughtful as they consider this project.

In Phase 3 of engagement, members of the public reviewed multiple design concepts for street layout and green rainwater infrastructure, as well as other potential improvements like seating, educational signage, and public art. They shared their preferences, comments, concerns, and ideas. What we heard in this round is summarized in this report, and will be used to develop the final proposed concept for the St. George Rainway.



Summary

The majority of the feedback collected in this phase came through the survey and the youth activity, with open houses and meetings used to provide details and answer questions to support the public in completing the survey.

Engagement Events:



156 total surveys
November 4-28, 2021
134 submitted online
22 paper surveys



**Virtual and In Person
Open Houses**
October 31, 2021
November 17, 2021



Youth Activity
60 children
Ages 6 to 14

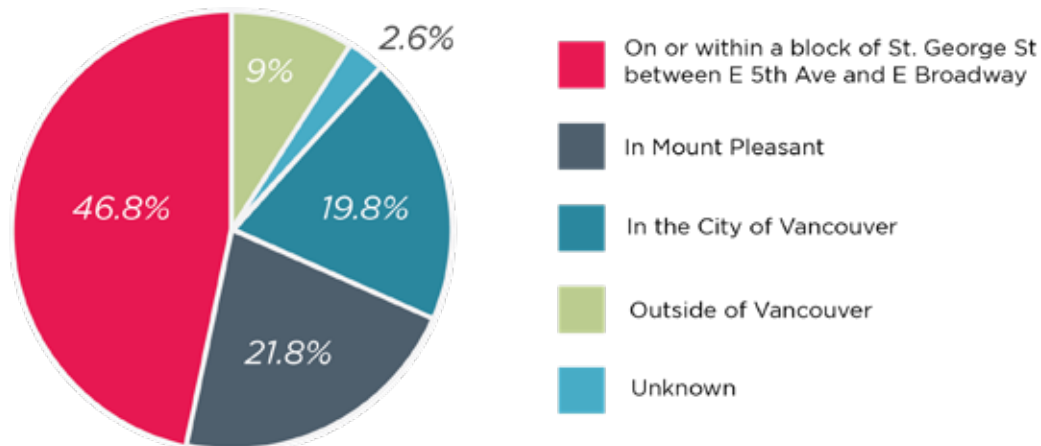


**Community Advisory
Committee**
12 members

In addition, staff have met with interested local groups including the Mount Pleasant BIA, the Mount Pleasant Elementary PAC, the Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, and local strata councils.

Who did we hear from?

Over two thirds of the feedback we received in this phase came from locals who would be affected by the project, with 46.8% of survey responses coming from people who live within a block of the project, and an additional 21.8% coming from residents of the wider Mount Pleasant neighbourhood.



In this phase of engagement, we included a youth engagement activity which allowed us to reach an age distribution of respondents closer to the Mt Pleasant Neighbourhood than in previous rounds of engagement.

Fig. 1: Where survey respondents live

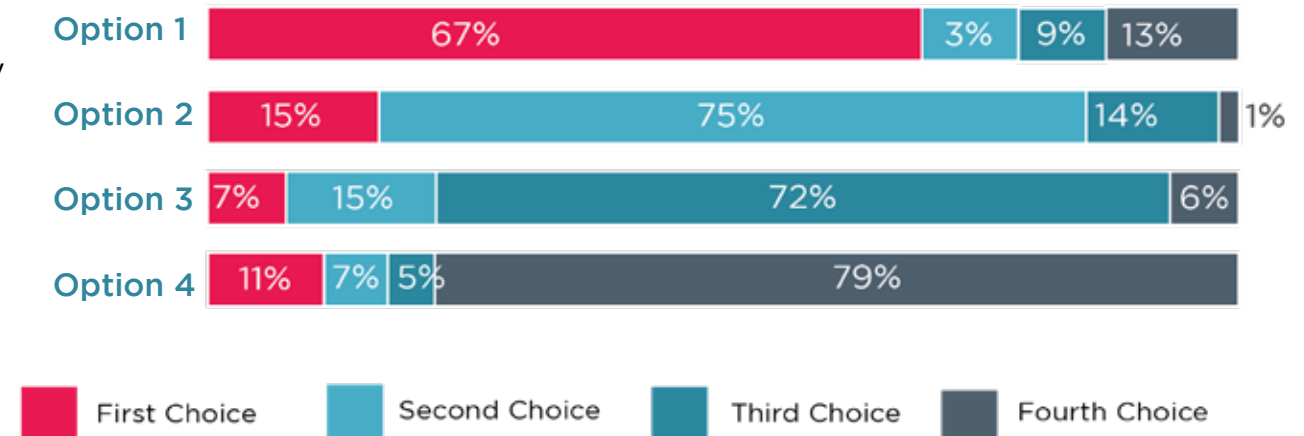
Street Layout Options

There were 4 options presented for the street layout of St. George, from Broadway to 5th Ave, which the public was asked to rank:

- Option 1: Car-free space at Broadway and from 7th to 6th Ave
- Option 2: Car-free Space from 7th to 6th Avenue
- Option 3: One-way Southbound Vehicular Travel
- Option 4: One-way Southbound Vehicular Travel with Moderate Parking

For a detailed explanation of the options, please review the [poster boards](#).

Rank the four possible street layouts in order from 1 (preferred option) to 4 (least preferred option):



Of the presented options for the street layout, the top ranked was:
Option 1: Car-free space at Broadway and from 7th to 6th Ave

“Less car access on this street likely improves safety for school children. It also encourages parents to walk/ride to pick up children, which in turn reduces traffic congestion for parents who need to use vehicles for accessibility reasons”

Option 1 includes providing a local street bikeway with one-way southbound vehicle traffic along St. George Street. This option includes two car-free spaces at Broadway and from 7th to 6th Ave and removes street parking between Broadway and 6th Ave. This option was the first choice for 67% of all respondents, and was also the top choice for residents of St George Street.

“Parking is at a premium especially given St George development and school. Resident access (emergency etc.) also a real priority.”

For both residents of St George street and the overall respondents, Option 2 was the second choice, Option 3 the third, and Option 4 was the least favourite, with 79% of all respondents putting it as their fourth choice. The most common topics of comments on street layout were supporting car-free areas, concerns about vehicle access and parking, and traffic calming needs.

Green Rainwater Infrastructure Concept Design

The public was asked to rank three concepts for the Green Rainwater Infrastructure portion of the Rainway:

- Concept A: Flow
- Concept B: Ripple
- Concept C: Falls

For more information on the proposed concepts, review the [poster boards](#).

The top ranked Green Rainwater Infrastructure concept was:
Concept A: Flow

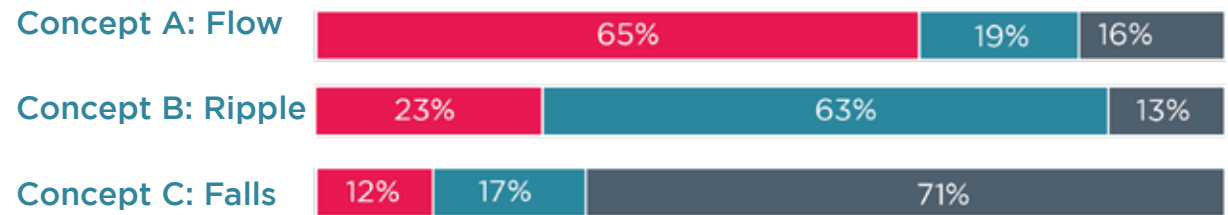
Key features of Flow include:

- Flowing and organic shape
- Gentle slopes
- Meandering sidewalk
- Planted and stone check dams
- Informal plazas

Flow was the top ranked option by residents of St George Street, children and youth, and all the survey respondents overall. Concept B: Ripple was the second choice, and Concept C: Falls was the least popular, with 71% of respondents putting it as their third choice.

Comments celebrated the more natural approach and materials of Flow, the curved path, and raised the importance of accessibility.

Rank the three Green Rainwater Infrastructure Concepts in order from 1 (preferred option) to 3 (least preferred option):



■ First Choice ■ Second Choice ■ Third Choice

“Meandering pathway mimics nature and changes up expected path of sidewalk. ...Entire design seems to take more inspiration from nature which makes it feel like a break from the city.”

“Are there any features for blind users along the meandering sidewalk section so they can travel easily?”



Fig. 2: 3D rendering of the Flow design concept

Youth Activity Summary

The St George Rainway is close to several schools, and is in a neighbourhood full of families. To make sure we heard from the children and youth of the neighbourhood, we designed a collage activity and worksheet that asked youth to design their ideal Rainway and tell us about what they included and why. The activity was shared on the project website, with teachers at Mount Pleasant and Florence Nightingale Elementaries, and local Brownie, Guides and Cub Scouts groups.

Findings

Sixty children and youth participated in the activity.

Their preferences for the green infrastructure design concepts were consistent with the results from the adult survey.

67% of youth respondents selected Flow as their favourite option, and 62% put Falls as their least favourite.

Common themes in the collages and comments included excitement to welcome more wildlife into the area, making sure there will be no litter or pollution in the Rainway, wanting it to be a space without cars, and excitement about public art, pollinator houses, and free book libraries.

“I do not want to see pollution because that would just defeat the purpose!”

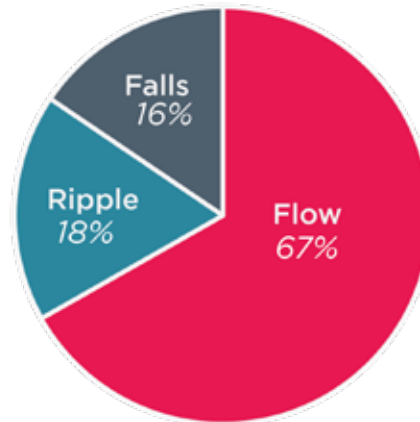


Fig. 3: Favourite GRI design for youth

“[I like] all the animals, and they should all have a home and you’re helping them live”

“It could be really cool to see no cars at all in one area and it would improve the air around us too!”



Fig. 4: Examples of the collages produced by the youth

Public Space Improvements

Many potential public space improvement were presented in three categories; Informal Play; Seating and Viewing Platforms; and Learning. The public was asked if each of the options would enhance their experience of the Rainway. The top rated options in each category are:

Informal Play



Bridges with stepping stones
82% support



Boulders
67% support

Seating and Viewing Platforms



Seating in nature
80% support



Lookout Platforms
72% support

Learning



Pollinator Houses
86% support



Water sculpture
63% support

Influencing Design

All of the feedback received in this and previous round of public engagement is being taken into consideration as the final Rainway concept is designed. In addition to helping the design team choose between the options presented, comments from the public have also sparked new possibilities and additions that the team is now exploring to determine their feasibility. Some of these possibilities include:

“Please take into consideration placement of public seating in proximity to existing homes and front steps. Quite concerned about public seating outside our front door.”

“Below eye level, hidden lighting along path”

“Consider additional traffic calming along 8th Ave on either side of St. George”

“Small adoptions of the public realm over time (e.g. residents adding little libraries, more plants, etc.)”

“Garbage cans.”

“The engraved paving looks gorgeous but concerned about people slipping or tripping. Could the engraved piece be mounted instead of inset where people walk?”

“More natural materials ... over concrete or metal”

Next Steps

City staff are taking the feedback received and developing a final design proposal that will meet the technical requirements for this important drainage infrastructure and enhance the neighbourhood for the community. Before coming back to the public in Phase 4, the design will also be reviewed by the City's People with Disabilities Advisory Committee to ensure the proposal will work for all members of the community.



Final Concept Design

City staff develop the final concept design
January - March 2022



Engagement Phase 4

Share the proposed design to the public for approval
April 2022



Detailed Design

City staff finalize plans for construction
June - December 2022



Ready for Construction

Rainway ready to begin construction
Early 2023

For more information on the St. George Rainway project, visit shapeyourcity.ca/stgeorgerainway or send us an email at raincity@vancouver.ca