

B. Open Space & Amenity

Objective: Provide a framework of well-connected spaces and services that support community building, sustainability and wellness.

Current policy requires that City and School District open space serve City Centre residents at a ratio of 7.66 acres/1,000 people, of which 3.25 acres/1,000 people must be situated within the downtown.

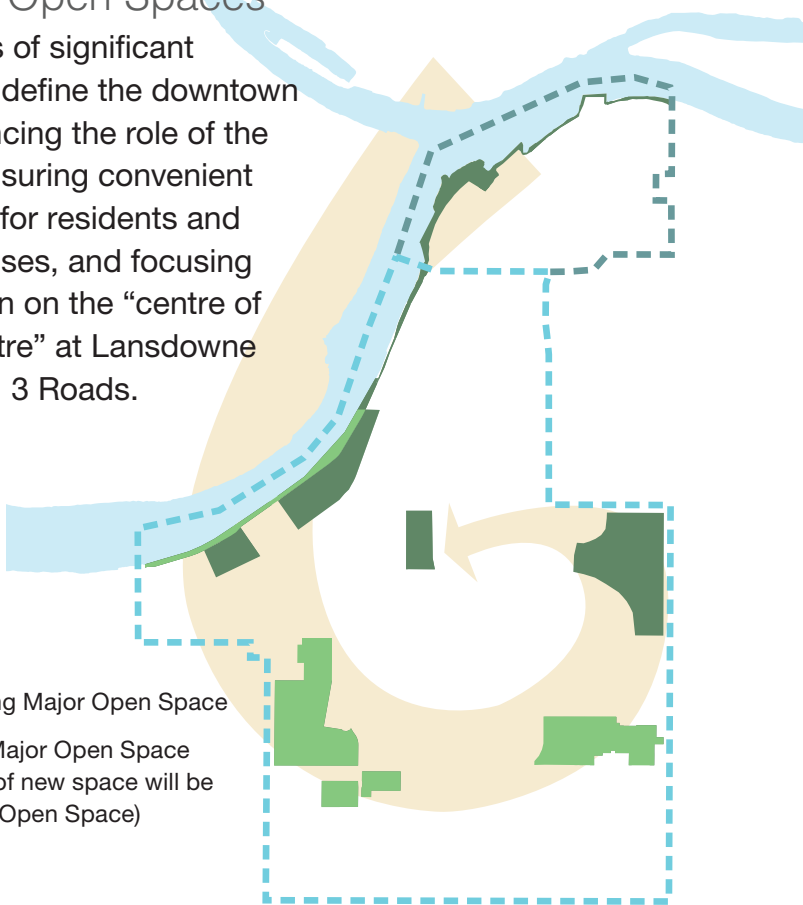
Assuming 120,000 City Centre residents, 390 acres of open space is required (189 acres existing + 201 acres new) and it is proposed that:

1. New school sites will be provided in addition to this land.
2. Building encroachment will be limited by co-locating libraries and other facilities on non-park land where possible

Major Open Spaces

A series of significant spaces define the downtown – enhancing the role of the river, ensuring convenient access for residents and businesses, and focusing attention on the “centre of the centre” at Lansdowne and No. 3 Roads.

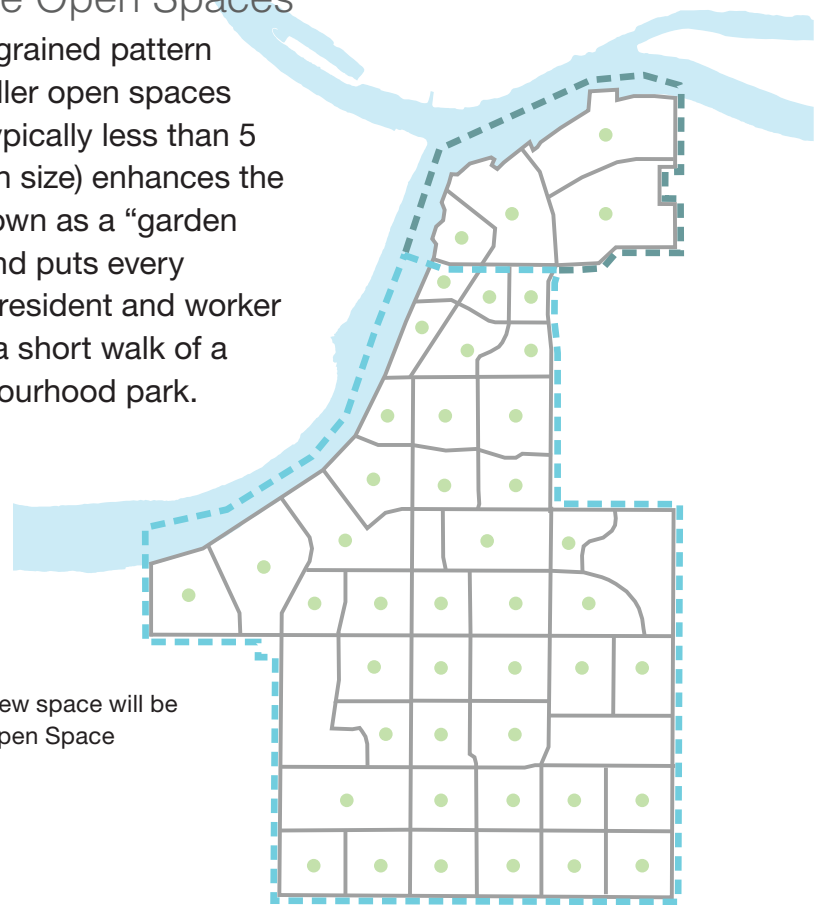
- Existing Major Open Space
- New Major Open Space (50% of new space will be Major Open Space)



Village Open Spaces

A fine-grained pattern of smaller open spaces (e.g., typically less than 5 acres in size) enhances the downtown as a “garden city” and puts every village resident and worker within a short walk of a neighbourhood park.

50% of new space will be Village Open Space

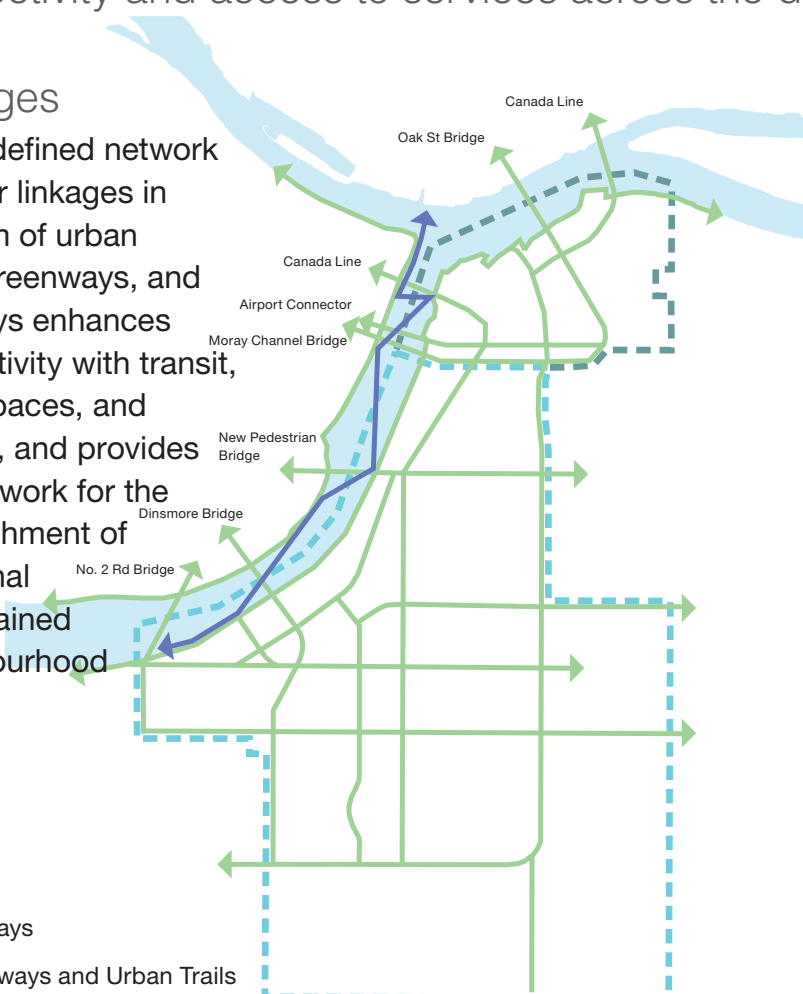


In addition to City and School District owned open space, City policies promote the provision of a network of pedestrian linkages and public places designed to enhance connectivity and access to services across the downtown.

Linkages

A well-defined network of major linkages in the form of urban trails, greenways, and blueways enhances connectivity with transit, open spaces, and villages, and provides a framework for the establishment of additional finer-grained neighbourhood

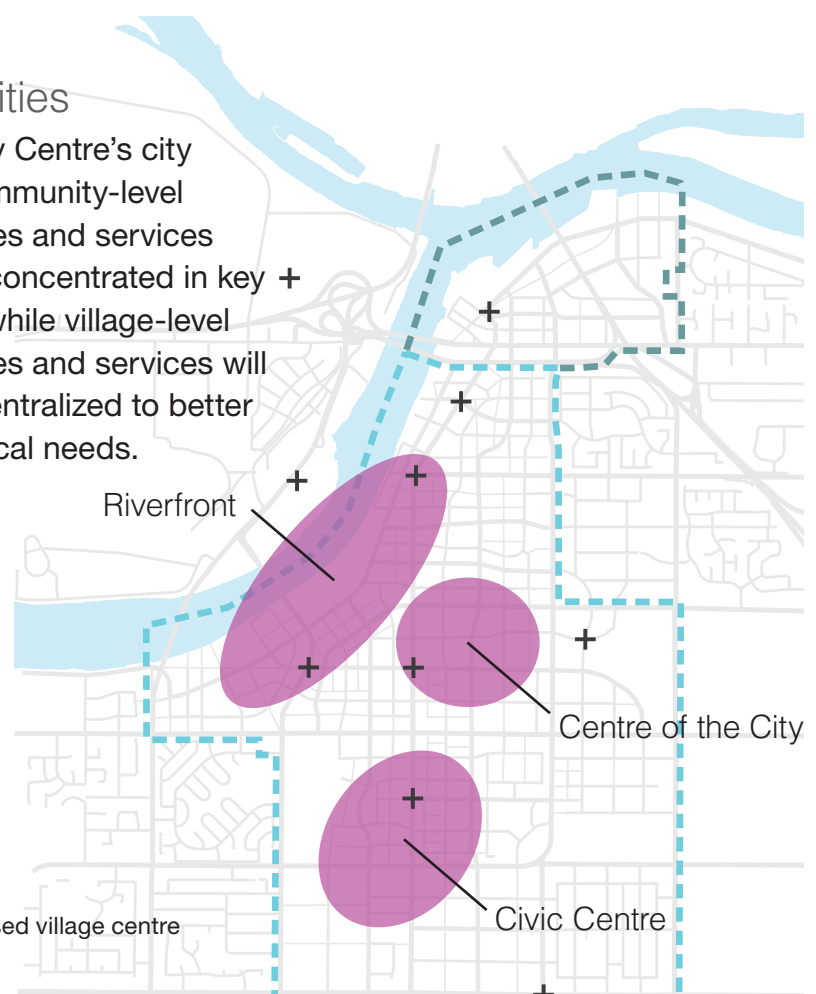
- Blueways
- Greenways and Urban Trails



Amenities

The City Centre’s city and community-level amenities and services will be concentrated in key + areas, while village-level amenities and services will be decentralized to better meet local needs.

+ proposed village centre



B. Open Space & Amenity

To integrate the built, human, and natural environments in a manner that provides for a diversity of engaging, attractive, and “green” settings in which to live, work, and play.

Major Open Spaces

Large, prominent open spaces, each of which provides for a range of naturalistic and man-made experiences, are designed, programmed, and sited to enhance the downtown’s unique features and opportunities.



Village Open Spaces

A patchwork of distinctive “village greens”, co-located with animated urban uses, provide focal points for neighbours to meet, play, garden, walk the dog, and enjoy being in the city.



Linkages

A prominent “necklace” of greenways, blueways, urban trails, and green streets visually and physically link the downtown’s open spaces, amenities, and habitats and provide for parades and special events.



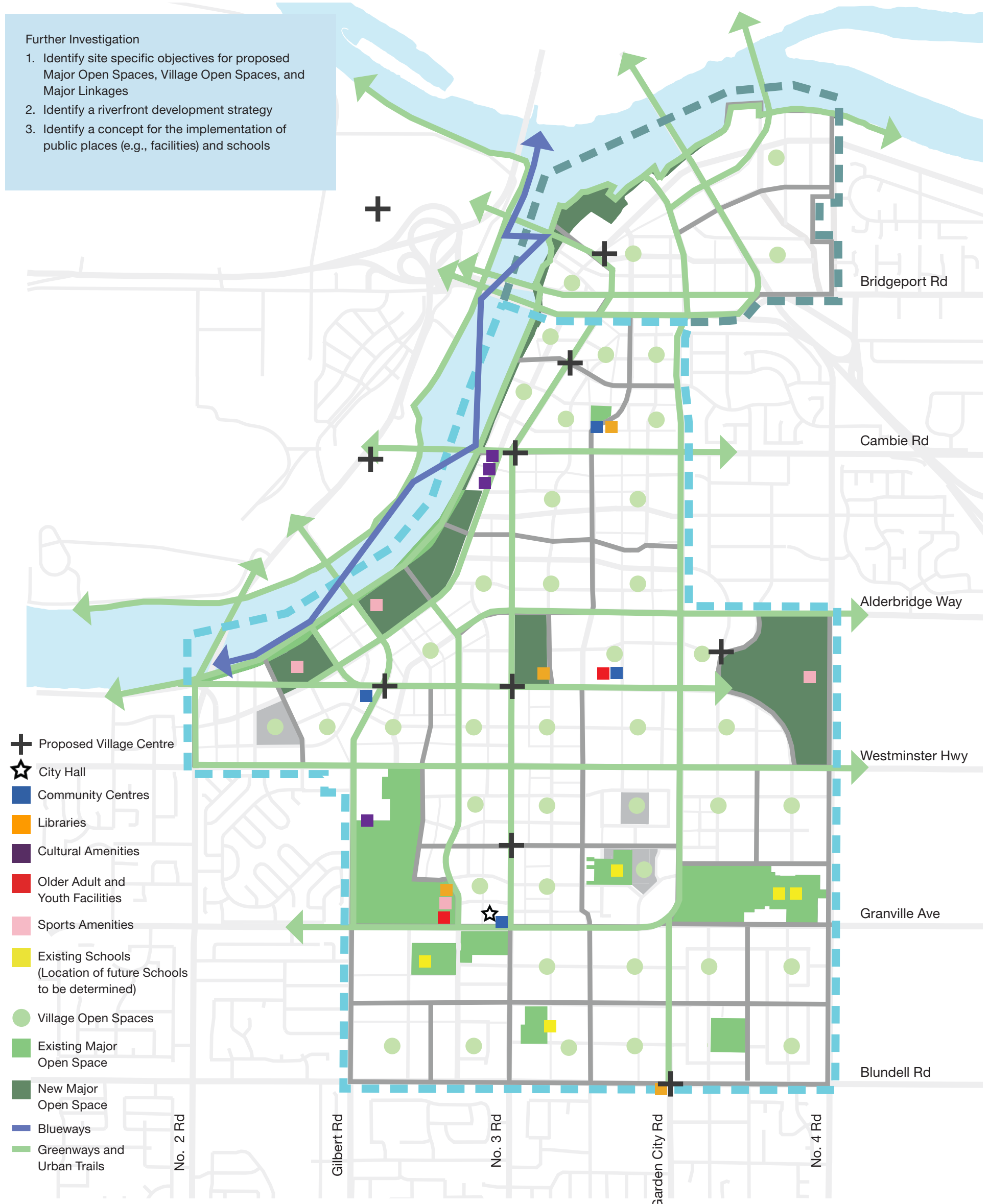
Amenities

A variety of high-quality, public facilities sited and designed to create a synergy with their individual locations through their development as iconic and/or integrated elements in the urban landscape.



B. Open Space & Amenity

The framework provides for a combination of City and School District owned open spaces, facilities, and linkages designed to support both the downtown's villages and its broader role as a centre for Richmond.

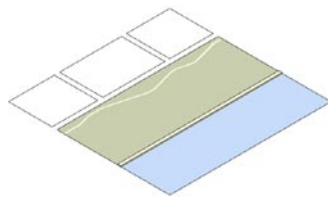
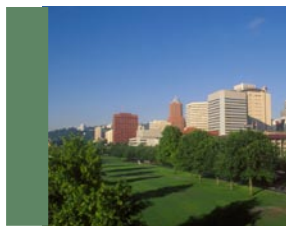


B. Open Space & Amenity

In addition to identifying the key elements defining the City Centre’s open space and amenity framework, it will be important to identify the quality and character of those spaces and places.

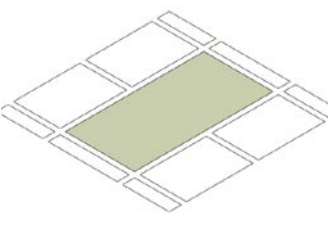
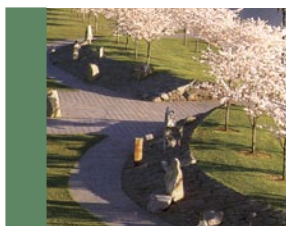
Major Open Spaces

Park



Purpose	Available for civic purposes, informal recreation, play, athletics, urban agriculture, and outdoor/nature appreciation and education	Site Features	Some combination of paths, lawns, trees, horticultural/botanical features and natural areas /// May include urban agriculture features/community gardens, playgrounds, and sports fields.///60+% landscape with habitat value/// 90% permeable surfaces minimizing stormwater runoff
Size	A minimum of 6.0 ha (14.8 ac.) in size	Coverage	10% max. occupied by buildings and parking
Location	Adjacent to important vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares	Ownership	City-owned
Edges	Framed by some combination of landscape features and/or buildings, with intervening streets along at least 75% of its edges	Example	“Garden City Park”

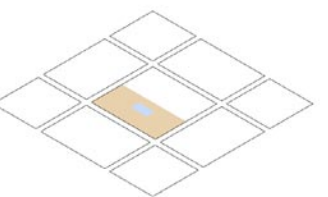
Green



Purpose	Available for civic purposes and informal recreation and play	Site Features	Some combination of paths, lawns, and trees, horticultural/botanical features, and natural areas /// May include urban agriculture features/community gardens, playgrounds, open areas for sports use, and school /// 33+% landscape with habitat value /// 80% permeable surfaces minimizing stormwater runoff
Size	Between 0.8 ha (2 ac.) and 6.0 ha (14.8 ac.) in size	Coverage	20% max. occupied by buildings and parking
Location	Adjacent to important vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares	Ownership	City-owned
Edges	Framed by some combination of landscape features and/or buildings, with intervening streets along at least 75% of its edges	Example	“General Currie School/Park Site”

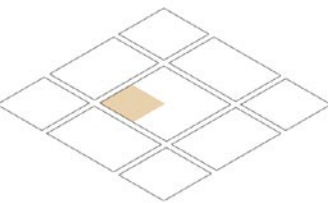
Village

Commons



Purpose	Available for informal recreation and play and outdoor/nature appreciation and education	Site Features	Some combination of paths, lawns, and trees, formally and informally arranged /// May include urban agriculture features/community gardens and playgrounds /// 33+% landscape with habitat value /// 80% permeable surfaces minimizing stormwater runoff
Size	Between 0.4 ha (1 ac.) and 2.0 ha (5 ac.) in size	Coverage	10% max. occupied by permanent buildings and paved surfaces
Location	Located at the intersection of important vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares	Ownership	City-owned
Edges	Framed by buildings, with intervening streets along at least 50% of its edges	Example	Proposed as part of new development near the Capstan Canada Line station

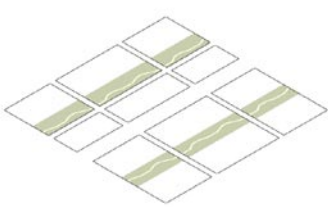
Plaza



Purpose	Available for civic purposes and commercial activity (e.g., vendors, cafes, etc.)	Site Features	Primarily hard surface treatment and botanical/horticultural features /// May include a playground /// 50% permeable surfaces minimizing stormwater runoff
Size	Between 0.13 ha (0.32 ac.) and 0.8 ha (2 ac.) in size	Coverage	No permanent buildings (excluding unenclosed shelters, bandstands, etc.) or parking
Location	Located at the intersection of important vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares	Ownership	Situated on private property and secured for public use via a right-of-way
Edges	Framed by buildings, with intervening streets along at least 50% of its edges	Example	Proposed transit plazas at each Canada Line station & at transit node of each buslink village

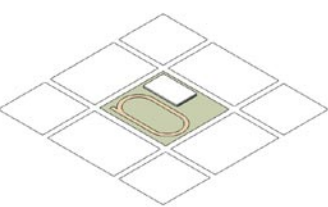
Major + Village

Trail



Purpose	Available for pedestrian and cyclist use, unstructured recreation, and civic purposes and forming part of the downtown’s network of Major Linkages or finer-grained neighbourhood connections	Edges	Fronted by and accessible from some combination of commercial, residential, and public uses, with cross-access from multi-modal streets at an interval no great than every 100 m (328 ft.)
Size	Of varying length, with a minimum width of 6 m (19.7 ft.) as measured to fronting buildings	Site Features	Some combination of paths, lawns, and trees, formally disposed /// 50% permeable surfaces minimizing stormwater runoff
Location	Located to provide public access to the waterfront, link major or minor destinations, and/or break up large city blocks, especially where this enhances pedestrian access to a transit node (e.g., Canada Line station)	Coverage	No permanent buildings (excluding unenclosed shelters, bandstands, etc.) or parking
		Ownership	Co-located with a public road or situated on private property and secured for public use via a right-of-way
		Example	“Dyke Trail”

Amenity



Purpose	Provision of community-based indoor recreational/cultural facilities	Site Features	Within “green” precincts; demonstrating “architectural design excellence”
Size	Varying, from regional to city-wide to community use	Coverage	Hopefully, co-located facilities will not erode precious “park and Open Space” areas
Location	Preferably co-located within new mixed-use developments; facilities spread equitable among urban villages	Ownership	Possible public/private partnerships (P3s), in acknowledge that the City cannot satisfy full community “wish list” using public purse
Edges	Streets and sidewalks to promote pedestrian/cycle access	Example	Community library co-located within ground floor of mixed-use high-rise development