

7.5 City Centre/West Cambie Area Trails

Vision

The City Centre is a special urban centre that builds upon the “Garden City” concept to ensure a high quality pedestrian and cycling environment. This will be achieved through a network of “green” links between the residential neighbourhoods, commercial centres, recreational facilities, and the waterfront. The perimeter urban trails will form a ‘necklace’ of green spaces that define and strengthen the perimeter edge and entrances into the Downtown District of the City Centre. The City Centre waterfront will be developed as a premier urban riverfront and a key focus for downtown recreation and celebration both on the water and along the river’s edge. The key principles will be ensuring a high quality of urban design; making the development of a ‘walkable’ community becomes a high priority; ensuring links to the adjacent West Cambie residential area; the introduction of special features; emphasis on greening of the City Centre; and strengthening the connections and relationship of the City Centre to the waterfront.

Location

Includes the City Centre and West Cambie Planning Areas. The City Centre area is approximately from No.2 Road to No.4 Road and Blundell Road to Sea Island Way. The West Cambie area is between Westminster Highway and Bridgeport Road and Garden City and Highway 99.

Key Links And Destinations

The City Centre, as a highly developed multi-use area with a strong commercial, institutional, transit and residential focus, has many City wide destinations including retail malls, hospitals, high density residential developments, City Hall, city-wide recreational and cultural facilities (at Minoru Park) that include a central library, museum, art gallery, aquatic centre, ice area, track and field facilities. Other destinations are the waterfront dyke trail system (Fraser River Middle Arm); Brighthouse Park; McLennan Community Park and Botanical Arboretum; Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) lands (previously referred to as MoT.); Nature Park; the No.2 Road; Dinsmore, and Moray Channel Bridges to Sea Island and the Vancouver International Airport; Nature Park; Shell Road Greenway; Hwy. 99; and the residential areas and neighbourhood parks in the West Cambie and Dover areas.

Other City and External Plans

The Waterfront Development Strategy will focus on the economic, recreational, and aesthetic importance of the City Centre waterfront and development strategy to create a significant urban waterfront. Planning for a major Rapid Transit Project (RAV) connecting Richmond, Vancouver and the Airport is underway. Large areas that may be undergoing significant land use change include Department of Fisheries and Oceans lands (135 acres), the West Bridgeport area to the north, and sections of the West Cambie’s residential area.



Middle Arm Trail (near Cambie Road road end)



Future site of UBC Rowing Club on Middle Arm



No. 3 Road Translink B-Line station



Lang Park



City Hall water feature (Westminster Hwy. side)



The City is negotiating with the UBC Rowing Club to provide a home base for the Club, community programs, and a racing course along the Middle Arm. A City Centre Transportation Plan has been established that outlines long term pedestrian facility improvements. The future use of the City owned lands at 6080 River Road will provide an opportunity to increase and improve the open space along the waterfront.

Recommendations:

Short Term

1. Adopt the Greenway routes as shown on the City Centre/West Cambie Area Trails map.
2. Determine high priority neighbourhood areas within City Centre and West Cambie and develop Neighbourhood Green Links plans for them.
3. Develop further design standards for the Greenways and Green Links within the City Centre and adopt the existing City Centre Kit of Parts. (See example Appendix 2)
4. Construct the portion of the Garden City Greenway from Cook Road to Granville Avenue as part of the McLennan Community Park development.
5. Develop a plan for the City Centre waterfront through the Waterfront Development Strategy.
6. Work with other interested parties such as the UBC Rowing Club to develop the potential of the Middle Arm as a water based recreational and festival area with appropriate upland support amenities.
7. Coordinate and place high-priority on establishing pedestrian links with the future rapid transit stations.
8. Develop a park master plan for Minoru Park and strengthen the pedestrian connections in the park to the adjacent areas, incorporating the new Community Safety Building and firehall.

Ongoing / Long Term

9. When the DFO lands redevelop create a significant greenway/linear park along Garden City Road, Westminster Hwy, and Alderbridge Road (see Garden City Greenway for more details).
10. Develop Green Links plans for all the neighbourhoods within the City Centre and West Cambie area.
11. Consider developing a Pedestrian Master Plan (a long term strategy to improve the pedestrian environment) for the City Centre that focuses on the whole pedestrian realm (in addition to the trail routes) and includes standards for surface design, sidewalk widths and building setbacks, placement of site furnishings and special features such as public art, scale and relationship of building façade and use to pedestrians; and the type and quantity of landscape.
12. Continue to work with Transportation Planning to coordinate the pedestrian requirements with other transportation needs in the City Centre and West Cambie areas.

13. Develop Hollybridge Way as a significant greenway connection to the waterfront and include redeveloping the drainage canal into a major water feature.
14. Seek opportunities to create links to the waterfront and develop a waterfront park when options for the City-owned lands (6080 River Road) are being reviewed in the future.



Hollybridge Way drainage canal



Hollybridge Way pump station



Functional and aesthetic

Trails / Greenways

