

Growth Management Roadmap: Pathways to Success

What levers can the City use?

The Growth Management Roadmap looks ahead to how the City can accommodate growth, while staying true to its goal of becoming more sustainable, inclusive and complete. Jurisdictions with demonstrated success, especially in the context of an expensive or volatile market, generally rely on clear development parameters

(e.g., use, density, location, built form) that help reduce risk, increase public support and streamline development. The Growth Management Roadmap identifies three levers to encourage the right growth in the right place, encourage investment, and optimize positive community outcomes.



Leverage Private Development

Facilitate private developers and others to deliver more housing and complete, resilient, equitable communities where new and existing residents need them most via **land use policies that set clear expectations and reduce risk, time, cost and speculation.**



Leverage City Resources

Incentivize private developers and others to deliver better affordability, equity, accessibility, resiliency and ecological function via **land use policies that encourage higher development standards and improved outcomes.**



Leverage Partnerships

Remove barriers to government, non-profit and other investment in those people, places and spaces that are most in need via **land use policies that prioritize enhanced affordability, equity and sustainability outcomes.**

1

What is success?

We build MORE ...

- Housing supply and options
- Walkable, transit-oriented villages
- Appealing ways to move without a car
- Green buildings and infrastructure

2

What is success?

We build BETTER ...

- Housing that more people can afford
- Communities with housing, healthy food, jobs, amenities and transit for everyone
- Public and private places and spaces that are low-carbon, climate-resilient, connected, and biodiverse

3

What is success?

We build BEST with ...

- More government and non-profit investment in housing for low-income households
- Engaged residents and others, including diverse and seldom-heard voices
- A culture of climate resiliency and environmental stewardship

Housing Affordability: Pathways to Success



How can Richmond affect housing affordability?

Richmond must be a place where new housing delivers innovative, purpose-driven solutions that contribute towards housing affordability, diverse housing choices and equitable, resilient neighbourhoods.

Why is this important?

- Housing costs have risen faster than incomes.**
Between 2006 and 2021, median before tax income for homeowners increased by 22%, while the cost to buy a home rose 116%. For the same period, renter income increased by 41%, while rents rose 77% (source: Census).
- The challenge is greatest for lower income households.**
Lower income households have less resources and ability to adapt.
- A lack of federal support for affordable housing has worsened the problem.**
Federal investment used to ensure that at least 10% of new housing was for low-income households, but this dropped to 1% in the 1990s and has only just started to turn around.
- Over the last 10 years, almost 70% of new housing has been mid- and high-rise apartments near the Canada Line.**
While there remains capacity in the downtown area for additional high-density development (3+ floor area ratio), lands designated for 4-6 storey buildings are generally built-out (e.g., Moffatt, St. Albans, Alexandra, McLennan North).

What is affordability?

Affordability is different for different households because incomes and needs vary. Affordability considers all housing-related costs, such as home energy costs and the option to rent instead of buy or to NOT own a car.

What is Affordable Housing?

Housing is “affordable” when its cost does not exceed 30% of gross before-tax household income.

Market Affordable Housing

Housing that is usually built by private developers for rent or purchase by households earning close to median income (\$79,000), subject to income and rent limits.

Non-Market Affordable Housing

Housing that is usually funded (subsidized) by senior government for rent by households earning 50% of median income or less and may include support (e.g., for people with disabilities).

What are the challenges?	What does 2050 success look like?	How can we get there?
52,000 new dwellings must be built for new and existing residents between 2021 and 2041. * This is 31% faster than the pace of housing construction over the last 10 years.	New multi-unit housing is built across the city, contributing to a vibrant downtown and transforming suburban shopping precincts into walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented villages	1 Build more housing for new and existing residents
Pressing need for rental housing due to record low rental vacancies, insufficient new purpose-built rental housing, and intensified demand from households that are unable to buy. *	Developer-built market rental and below-market rental housing, affordable ownership and other options are part of walkable transit-oriented villages across the city.	2 Build more housing that more people can afford
Senior government investment is urgently needed to deliver non-market (subsidized) housing for Richmond’s lowest-income households. *	New government-funded, non-market (subsidized) housing is built across the city, particularly in transit-oriented villages and via the intensification of existing rental housing sites.	3 Build more non-market housing through effective partnerships

* The OCP Update must accommodate the needs identified in Richmond’s 2024 Interim Housing Needs Report.

Housing Affordability: Pathways to Success



Pathway #1: Build more housing for new and existing residents

What can we do?

Increasing the amount of land designated for low- and mid-rise apartments and townhouses outside downtown is the single most impactful way for Richmond to deliver more dwelling units and diverse housing options, at a lower cost, near important amenities and services.

What are we doing today?

- The high densities characteristic of Richmond's downtown and the Province's Transit-Oriented Area (TOA) legislation (Bill 47) will contribute to **most downtown housing being expensive concrete towers**.
- Outside downtown, the City rezoned 27,000 lots to permit Small-Scale Multi-Unit Housing (SSMUH), but **SSMUH development cannot meet all of Richmond's diverse needs**.
- The **Arterial Road policy has been made redundant by SSMUH**, as it is no longer necessary to rezone to build low-density multi-unit housing.

How can we do better?

The Growth Management Roadmap proposes significant new opportunities for lower-cost wood construction along the city's arterial roads with more:

- Land for townhouses (up to 3 storeys) along **Arterial Connectors**; and
- Opportunities for apartment buildings (up to 4, 5 or 6 storeys, depending on affordability) in **Local Villages**.



Neighbourhood Residential SSMUH



Townhouses



Local Village Mixed-Use



Local Village Apartments



What else can we do?

Reduce Construction Costs

Maximize opportunities for new 4-6 storey residential and mixed-use buildings suitable for lower cost wood construction and factory-built (prefab) options.

Reduce Infrastructure Costs

Encourage compact urban development and prioritize well-served locations to minimize the costs of infrastructure and other improvements that must be borne by the City, developers and residents.

Reduce Parking Costs

Reduce or remove parking requirements to lessen land and construction costs and ensure developers build only what is needed.

Put Housing Where People Want to Live

Encourage greater growth (e.g., higher densities) close to transit, amenities, shops, services, schools and parks.

Retain, Renovate, Adapt

Encourage upgrading of older housing stock to meet changing needs and reduce energy costs, emissions, and unnecessary waste, while increasing climate resilience.

Neighbourhoods for All Ages and Stages

All neighbourhoods include a range of housing options to meet diverse needs (e.g., seniors, young families).

Housing Affordability: Pathways to Success



Pathway #2: Build more housing that more people can afford

What can we do?

Increasing purpose-built rental housing, including both market rental and below-market rental units, is the single most impactful way for Richmond to deliver more housing that more people can afford and rely on (i.e., secured in perpetuity for rental only).

What are we doing today?

- Richmond is the **only municipality in the region** with a city-wide policy that secures **Low-End-Market-Rental (LEMR)** and **Market Rental Housing (MRH)** in all multi-unit developments with over 60 dwellings.
- Richmond's **Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS)** guides the City and other interests with an action-oriented framework for the delivery of housing for current and future residents with a focus on housing priority groups, building the capacity of non-profit housing and service providers, and increasing advocacy and awareness.
- Rental tenure zoning** is used to secure rental housing on 60 sites built pre-2007, including 2,725 market rental units and 1,400 below-market rental units.
- Inclusionary zoning (density bonusing)** is used city-wide to secure below-market (e.g., LEMR) housing in perpetuity in mixed-tenure buildings.
- Rental tenant protection** measures discourage demolition of existing rental housing and require 1:1 replacement of existing rental units.

How can we do better?

The Growth Management Roadmap proposes to incentivize private developers to construct new purpose-built rental housing by permitting more floor area for 100% rental buildings and reducing barriers (e.g., approval times), where the outcome will be attractive buildings that complement their surroundings.

Neighbourhood Types	Typical Storeys (Max.)	
	Mixed Tenure	100% Rental ⁽¹⁾
Downtown Mixed-Use	8, 12 or 15	➡ No change
Downtown Perimeter Low/Medium Density	2 to 4	➡ 4 to 6
Local Villages	4	➡ 5 to 6
Arterial Connectors	3	➡ 4
Neighbourhood Residential Lots > 4,045 m ² (1 acre)	3 to 4	➡ 6

(1) Height varies with affordability

What else can we do?

Tenant Protection

Strengthen existing City policies and enforcement.

Pre-zoning

Consider zoning specific areas to permit new rental housing without rezoning.

Permanent Affordable Home Ownership (AHO)

Encourage dwellings for purchase at below market rates for eligible buyers.

Rent-to-Own

Streamline approvals for rent-to-own and other options that make it easier for eligible buyers to finance buying a home.

Community-Led Housing

Encourage co-ops and other models aimed at maintaining permanent affordability for residents.

Student Housing

Support post-secondary institutions with on- and off-campus student housing options.

Alternative Housing

Support micro-units and other housing geared to specific resident needs.

Housing Equivalencies

Define equivalencies between alternative tenure options (e.g., AHO, LEMR, market rental) to support development flexibility, reduce risk, improve housing outcomes, and streamline approvals.

Fast-Track Approvals

Continue to streamline development approvals for rental housing projects.

Housing Affordability: Pathways to Success



Pathway #3: Build more non-market housing through effective partnerships

What can we do?

A proactive, development-ready strategy for lands owned by the City, other government entities and non-profit interests, including the alignment of plans and policies, is the single most impactful way for Richmond to support the partnerships necessary to secure increased senior government investment and faster delivery of non-market (subsidized) housing for the city's lowest-income households.

What are we doing today?

- On a project-by-project basis, **OCP policies support increased density** for 100% rental projects (i.e., higher than nearby non-rental projects).
- On a project-by-project basis, **City-owned land** may be available for lease at nominal cost for 100% rental projects that include subsidized dwellings.
- On a project-by-project basis, **development costs** may be reduced by, for example, waiving amenity charges or reducing parking for 100% rental projects that include subsidized dwellings.

How can we do better?

The Growth Management Roadmap proposes to help undo decades of senior government underfunding of non-market housing by strengthening intergovernmental partnerships and removing barriers to the intensification of rental housing on existing sites owned by the City, other government entities (e.g., BC Housing), non-profits and other interests.



Storeys - 129 non-market units



Kiwanis - 296 seniors non-market units



Pathways - 80 non-market units



Habitat for Humanity - 6 affordable home ownership units

What else can we do?

City of Richmond Housing Office

The Housing Office guides City partnerships, funding and other involvement in the delivery of affordable housing by government, non-profit and other entities.

Pre-zoning

This could be used to reduce uncertainty, while requiring a development application process to ensure an attractive form and character.

Rapid Housing

Continue to support rapid approvals of projects funded through the federal Rapid Housing Initiative and other government programs.

Housing with Supports

Work with the community to create a framework for the development and management of housing with supports.

Grants and Programs

Pursue existing and new funding programs and opportunities (e.g. reduced development fees) in partnership with senior government and others.

Homelessness

While there is a need for more emergency shelter spaces in Richmond, **temporary shelters are not housing**. The City's **Homelessness Strategy (2019-2029)** outlines strategic directions and actions for the City, community and government partners to prevent and respond to homelessness, including addressing the need for more housing.

What is the **Community Institutional Overlay** use?

The OCP Update identifies lands owned by government and other entities where:

1. Community use is required (e.g., healthcare, non-market housing, place of worship)
2. In addition to community use, the owner may build the site's designated "Neighbourhood Type" (e.g., Local Village)
3. On a site-specific basis, City Council may permit increased height or density to meet community need

Equitable Communities: Pathways to Success



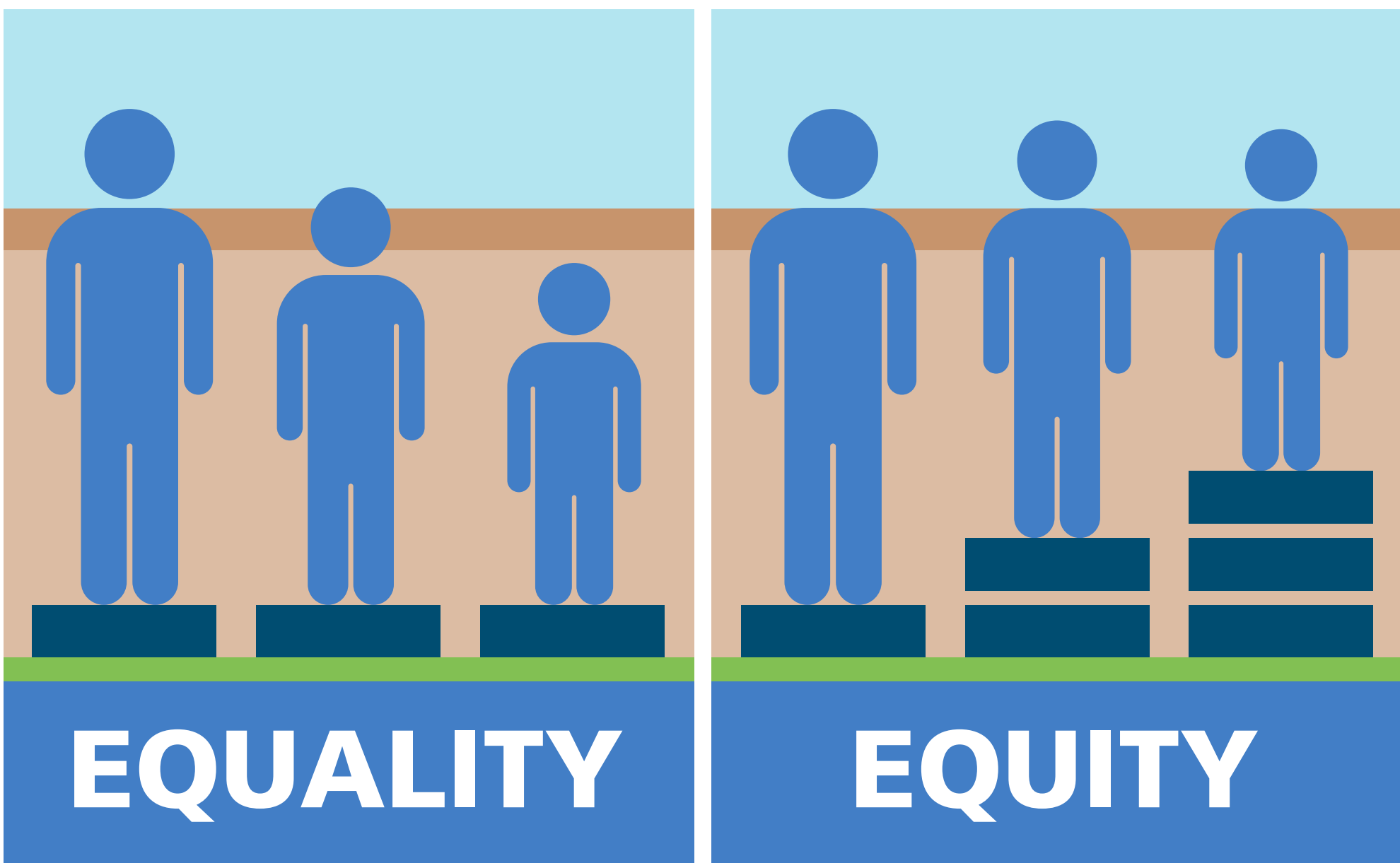
How can land use planning affect equity?

Equity means everyone has fair access to resources and opportunities, including housing, transportation, jobs, education, amenities, recreation, a clean, healthy environment, natural areas and parks, and climate resilient spaces and places. Applying an “equity lens” to land use planning means supporting awareness, understanding and suitable opportunities for people to participate to help:

- Foster an inclusive community;
- Support equity-deserving groups facing historic or systemic discrimination;
- Make certain no one is left behind and everyone benefits; and
- Ensure everyone has a voice in shaping the community where they live.

What are we doing today?

- The City is updating its social development strategy with a holistic approach that supports the creation of a more inclusive, thriving community.
- City processes seek to engage community members in civic decision-making (e.g., advisory committees, public meetings, Public Hearings).
- The growing needs of residents are supported by prioritizing public and private (e.g., developer) investment in areas experiencing the greatest change.
- The City adopted *Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines* in 2018, to promote accessibility in City facilities, and the *Richmond Accessibility Plan* in 2023, to guide the removal of barriers experienced by people with disabilities in accordance with the Accessible British Columbia Act.



Equity vs. Equality

Equality

Equality gives people the same resources or opportunities regardless of their needs.

Equity

Equity recognizes that each person is different and provides them with the right resources and opportunities to be successful.

What are the challenges?	What does 2050 look like?	How can we get there?
It is hard for equity-deserving groups to make their voices heard and participate in shaping where they live.	Richmond is an inclusive community shaped by diverse voices, including equity-deserving groups, who contribute to a strong sense of community and social connections.	1 Prepare an equity-based community planning engagement toolkit
In downtown, high rents and redevelopment are displacing non-profit organizations that support members of equity-deserving groups; while, outside downtown, residents and facilities are dispersed, which can make it hard for people to access the services they need.	Across the city, an “equity lens” ensures that growth contributes to inclusive urban villages that connect people with their daily needs (e.g., transit, healthy food stores, parks, community centres), including access to non-profit organizations and services for members of equity-deserving groups.	2 Prepare an equity-based land use and development strategy
Dispersed people and places, car-oriented neighbourhoods and accessibility barriers (e.g., missing sidewalk ramps) can stand in the way of people enjoying and thriving in the city’s natural and built environments.	A coordinated and comprehensive City approach to accessibility ensures that new public and private buildings, open spaces and infrastructure can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of their abilities.	3 Prepare an accessibility implementation framework

Equitable Communities: Pathways to Success

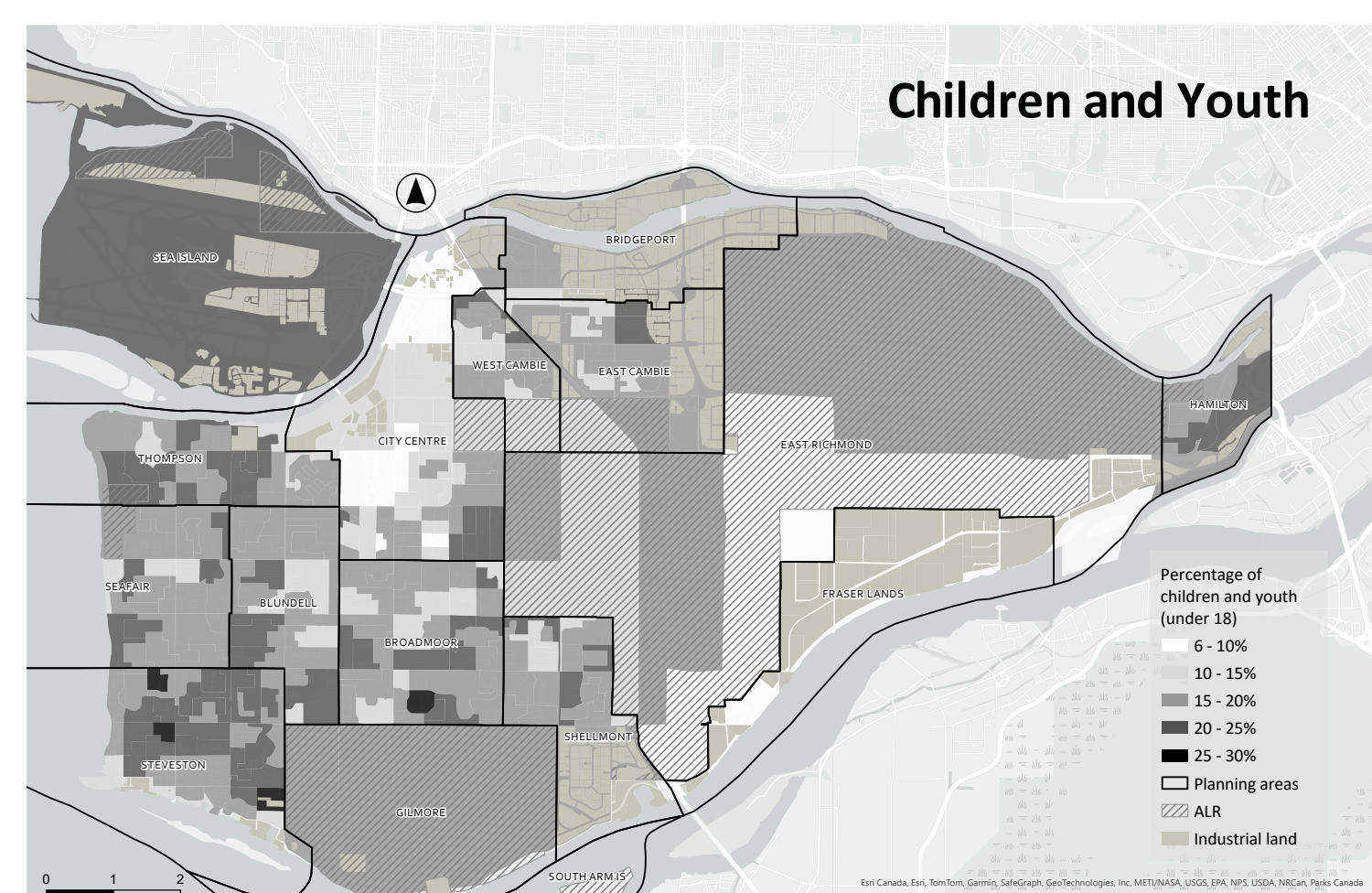
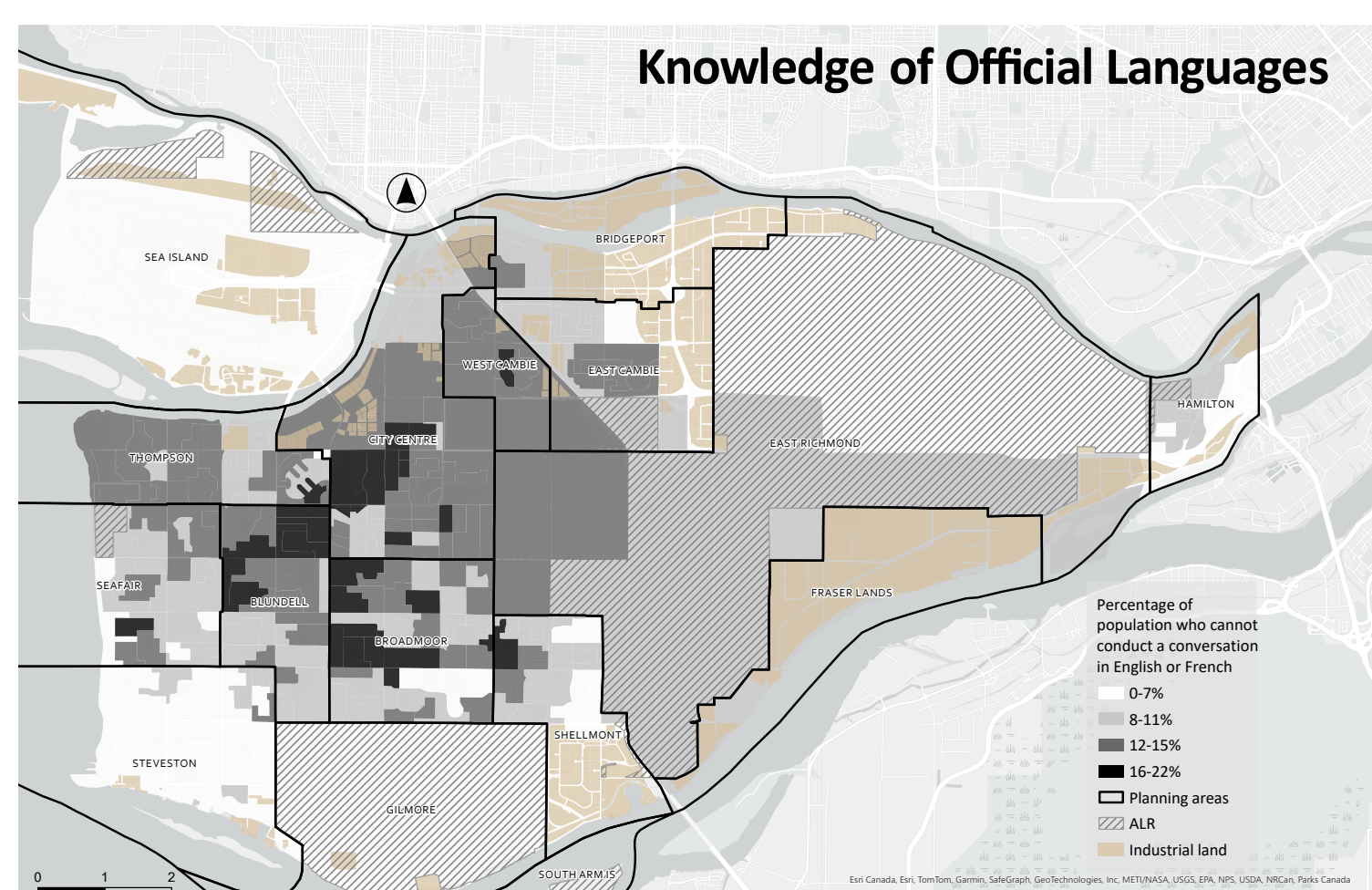
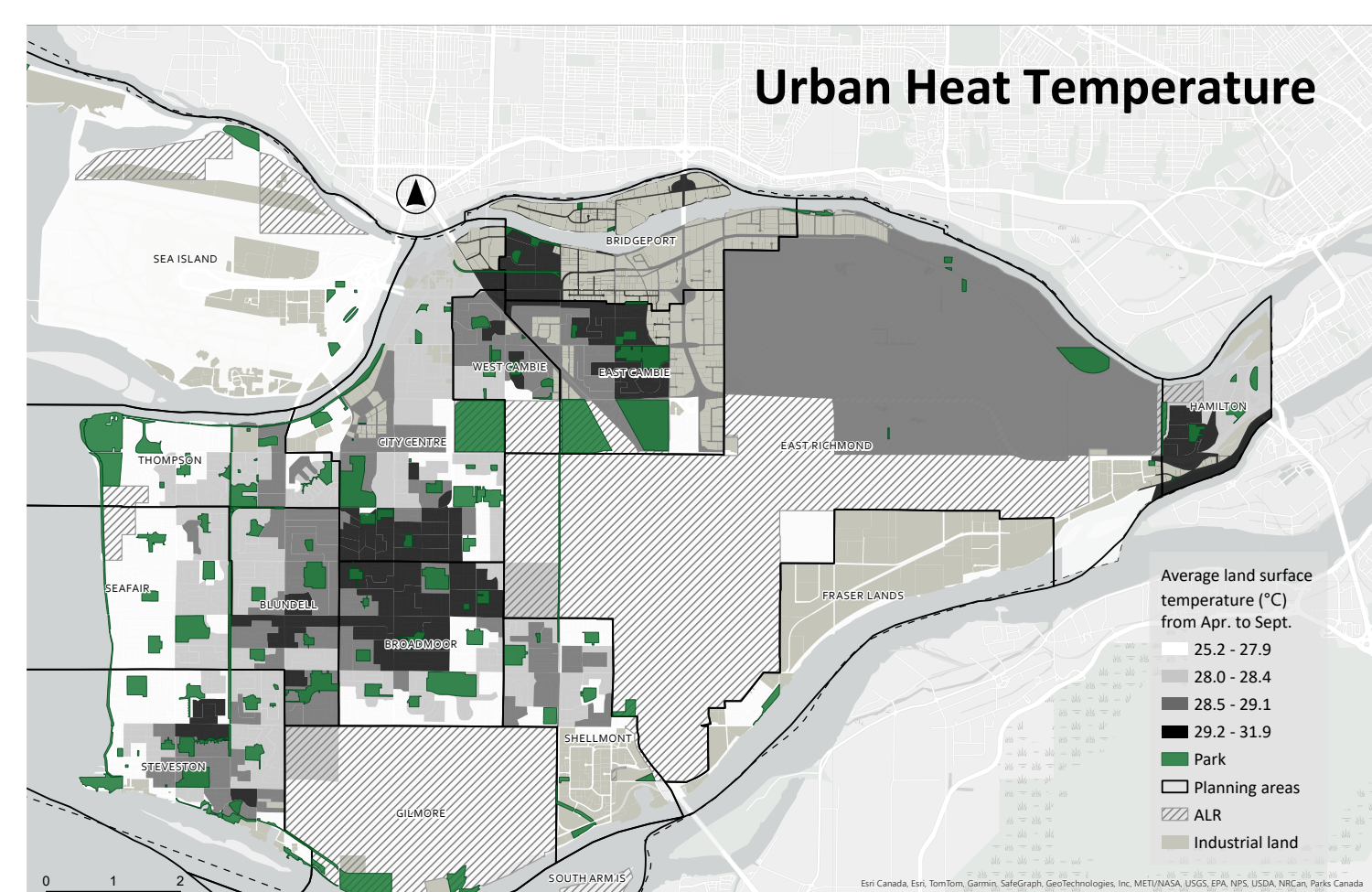
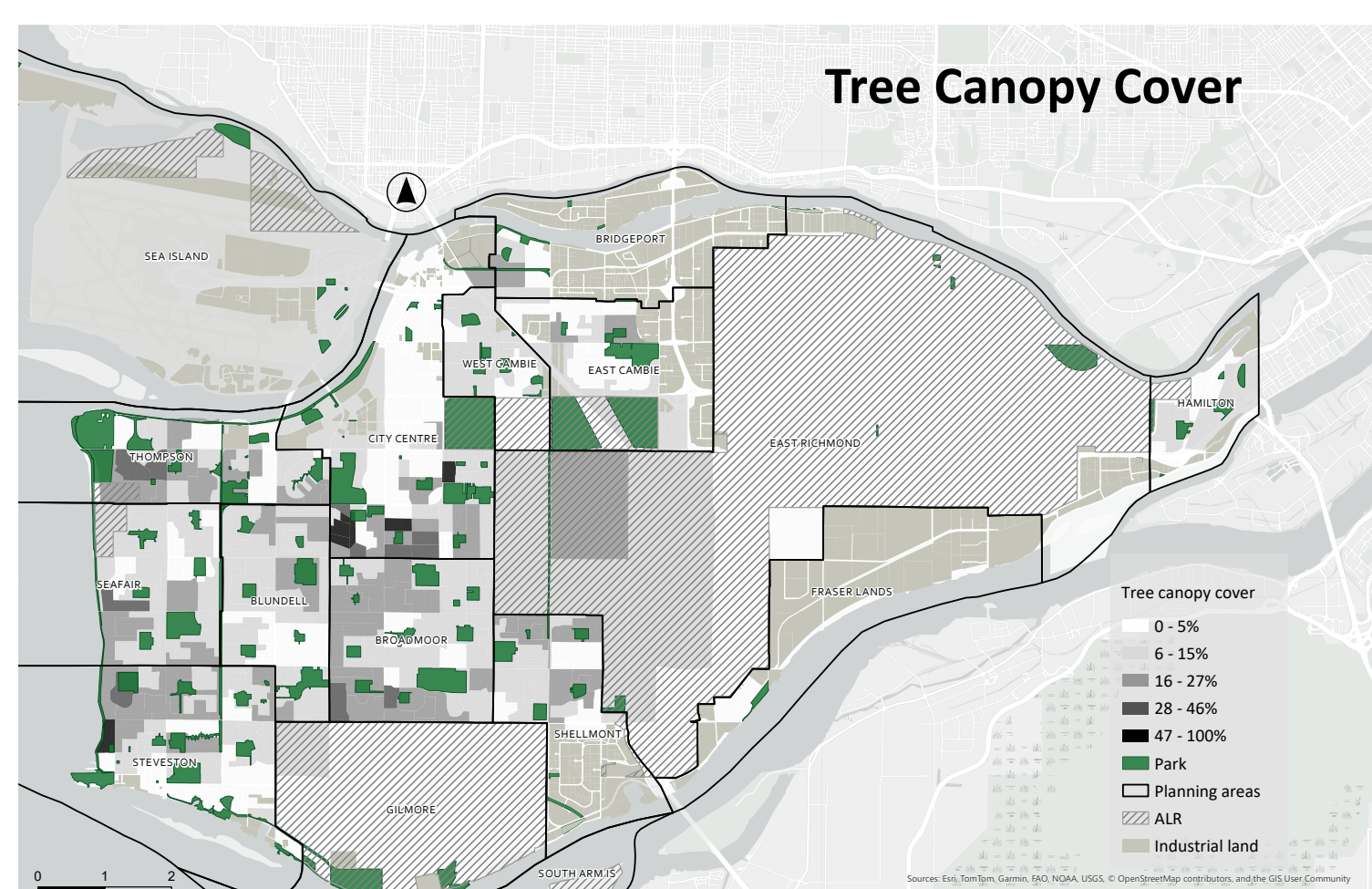
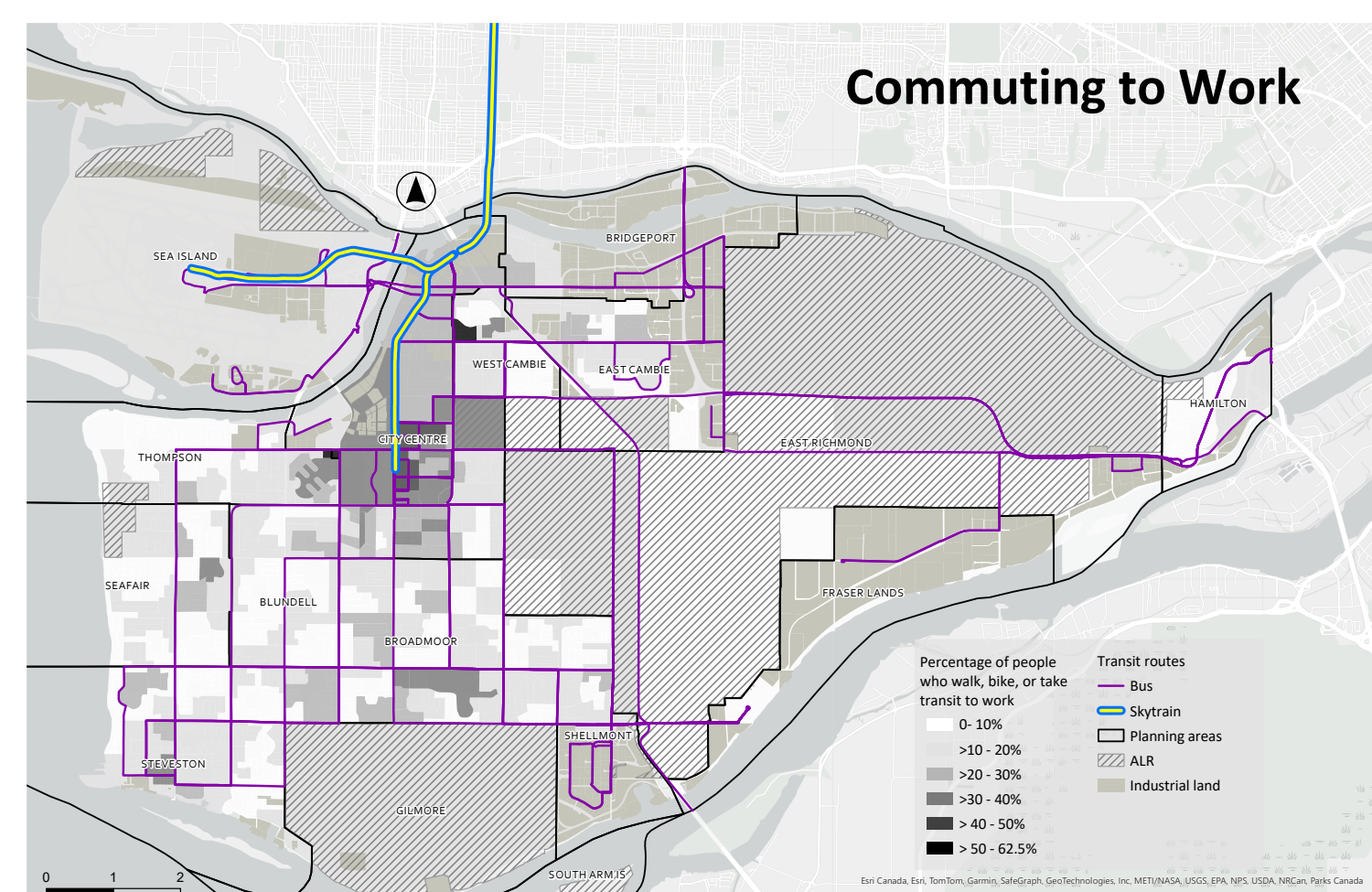
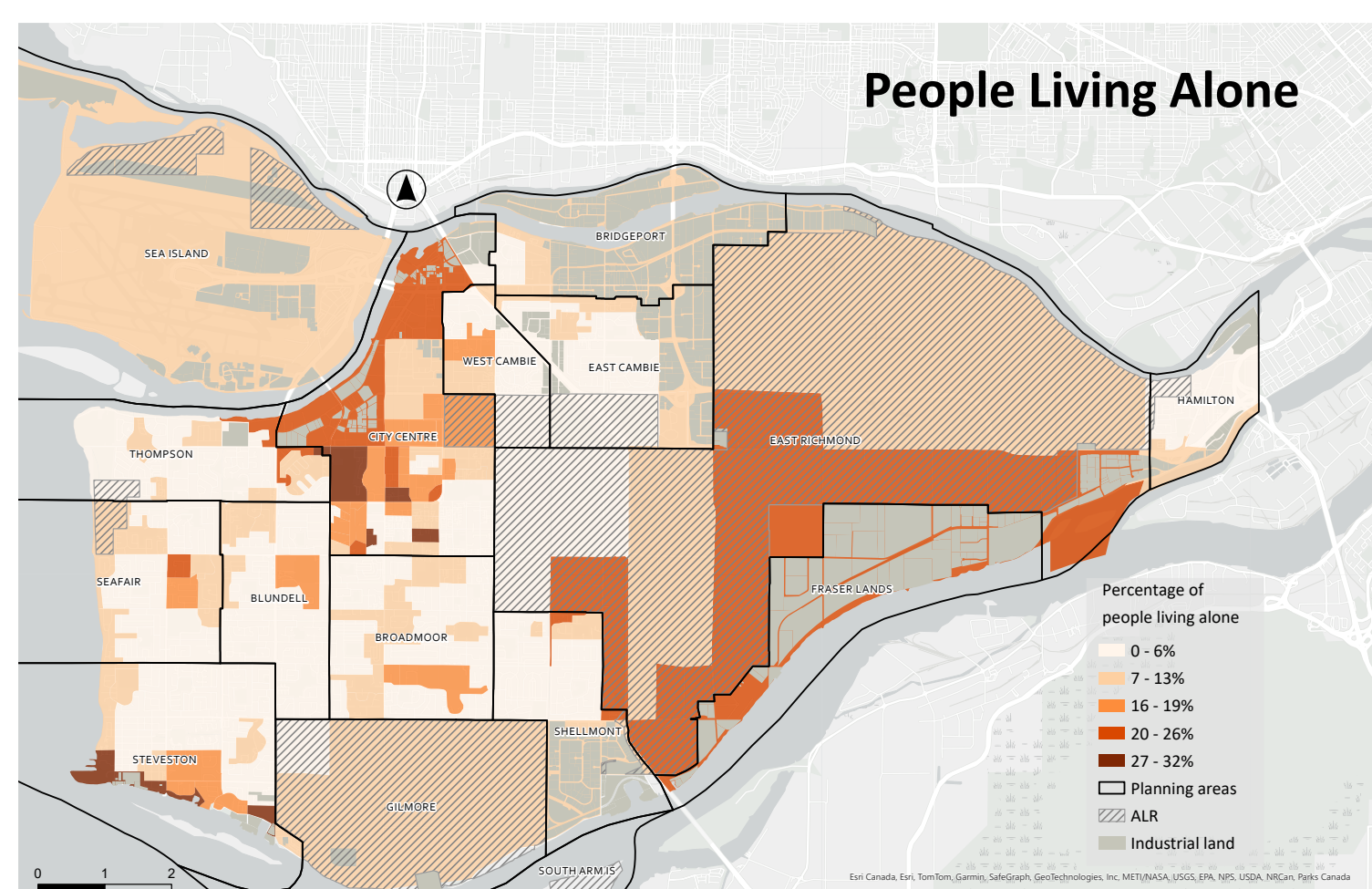
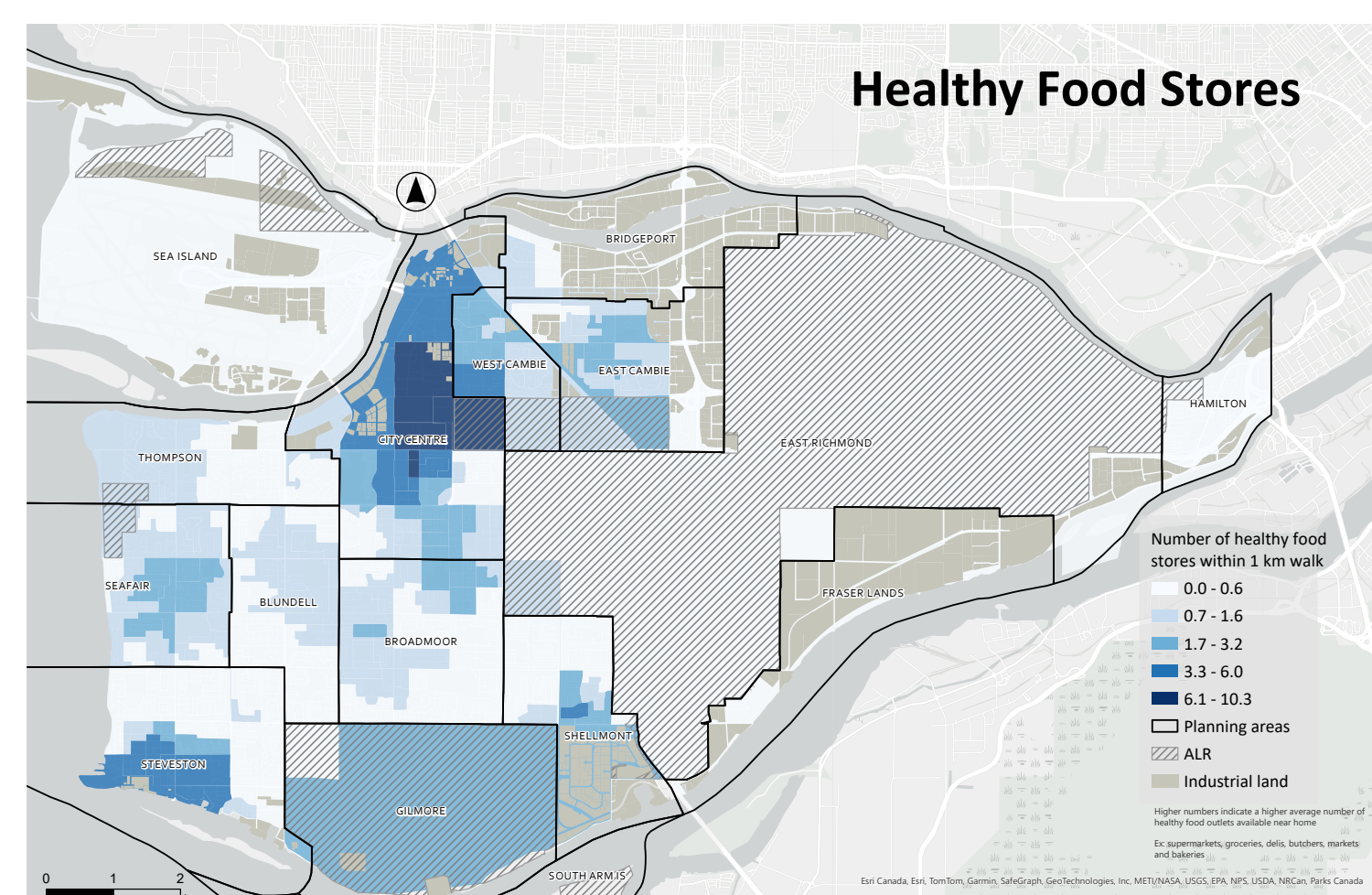
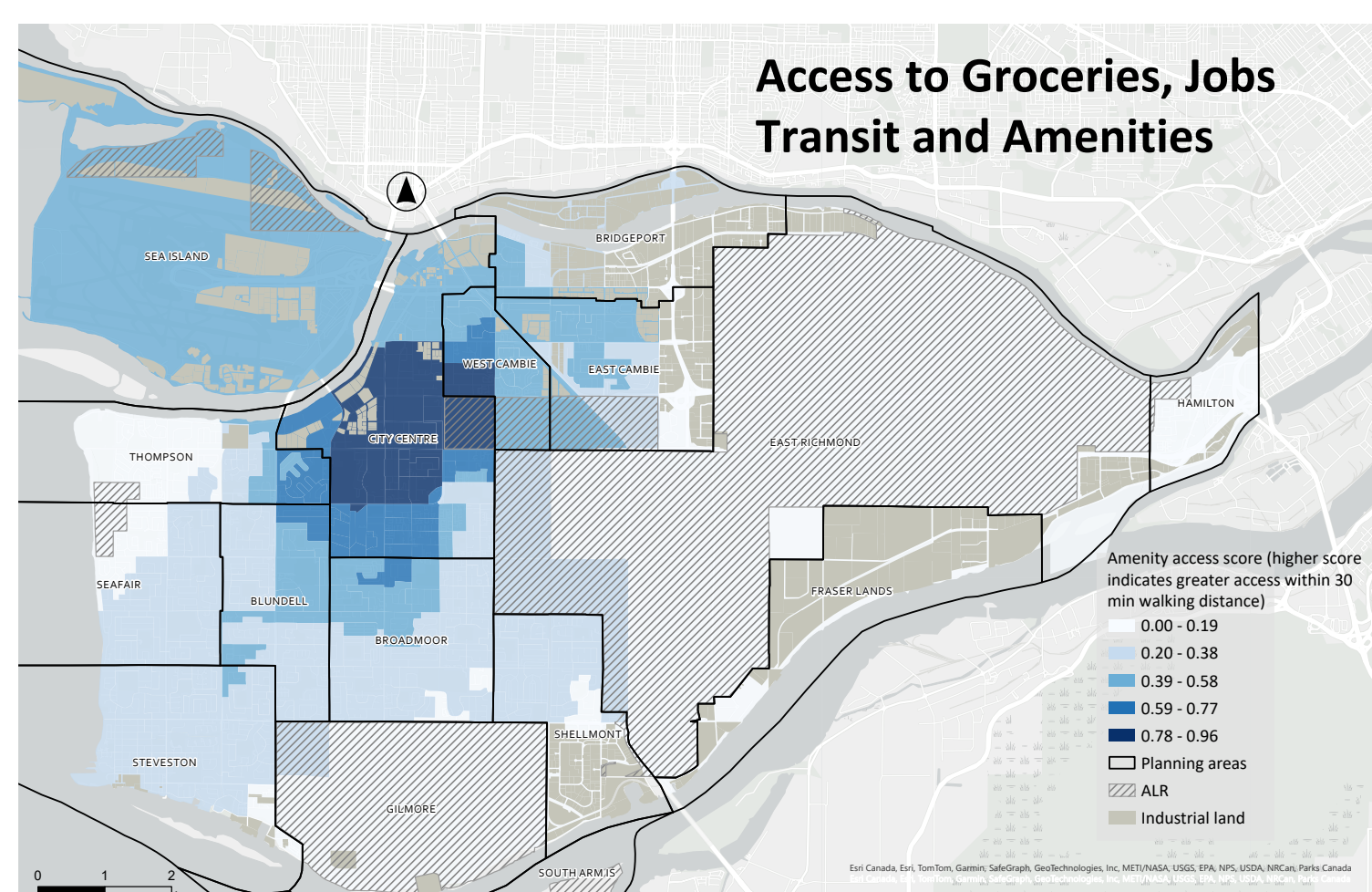


Equity Mapping

The first step towards a more equitable community is to understand the geographic distribution of equity in Richmond. The City has begun to map various social, economic and other indicators. Below are some examples based on various 2021 data sources (e.g., Canada Census) showing scattered patterns. In general, this indicates that, while some areas may be better served than others, there is no clear imbalance between various areas.

Next Steps

The City will engage with equity-deserving groups to understand their lived experiences, enrich the City's understanding, support partnerships, and help inform how to move towards a more inclusive Richmond.



What happens next?

Prepare an equity-based community planning engagement toolkit

Help partner with and engage equity-deserving groups in civic decision-making.

Prepare an equity-based land use and development strategy

Apply an equity lens to guide and help champion social, economic, environmental and cultural equity through land use and development decision-making.

Prepare an accessibility implementation framework

Coordinate and optimize the City's execution of its accessibility guidelines and technical specifications and help to advance the Richmond Accessibility Plan 2023-2033.

What else can we do?

Align policies with an Indigenous Relations Strategy

Once adopted by Council to advance reconciliation with local Indigenous Peoples

Incentivize Developer-Funded Community Spaces

In Local Villages (e.g., through density bonusing), to accommodate the cost-effective delivery of village-oriented services (e.g., neighbourhood house, community kitchen, adult daycare) by the City, non-profits and similar interests.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation: Pathways to Success



How can land use planning affect Richmond's climate response?

While climate change poses a significant challenge, responding to it presents opportunities to advance overall sustainability. This is because many of the things that reduce the impacts of climate change can simultaneously contribute to other sustainable land use objectives such as community safety, resilient economies, local food security, live-work-play communities, less car dependency, higher performing buildings, and healthier natural environments.

Why is this important?

It does not take a major change in temperature to change climatic conditions. Updating Richmond's land use planning, including the protection of natural areas and assets, will make the community more climate-resilient and contribute to equity, affordability and sustainability.

What are we doing today?

The City is a leader in climate mitigation and adaption action:

- In 2019, Richmond declared a climate emergency in response to the United Nation's call to action.
- Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050 and Circular City Strategy set paths to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and waste.
- High performance buildings (BC Energy Step Code) and low carbon district energy reduce energy use and GHG emissions from heating and cooling.
- Improved transit, active mobility (e.g., walking, rolling, biking) and electric vehicle (EV) charging are encouraged city-wide.
- Flood protection measures (e.g., dikes) address rising sea levels and the increased frequency and intensity of storms due to climate change.
- Tree canopy and green roofs help reduce heat impacts in urban areas.
- A transit-oriented village framework guides City Centre growth.

How do climate mitigation and adaptation differ?



Climate Mitigation

Climate Mitigation is about reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities through means like energy-efficient buildings, low carbon district energy systems, using transit, living in compact walkable communities, and minimizing disturbances to carbon stored in soils (e.g., peatlands in agricultural areas outside Richmond's residential development areas).



Climate Adaptation

Climate Adaptation is about preparing for the current and future impacts of a changing climate with things like enhanced flood protection, shade, energy efficient in-building cooling systems, drought-resistant planting and emergency response measures.

What are the challenges?	What does 2050 look like?	How do we get there?
High-performance standards apply to all new buildings, but it takes time to improve climate resiliency across neighbourhoods, especially in low density areas that are slow to change.	High performance standards (e.g., BC Energy Step Code) for new buildings and retrofits, district energy and related measures contribute to less energy use and reduced GHG emissions (e.g., net zero by 2050).	1 Prioritize continual improvement in high-performance development practices
Downtown is becoming transit-friendly, but elsewhere the shift away from cars to more compact, walkable communities remains a challenge.	Climate-based decision making ("climate lens") has reduced car dependency and supported the development of a network of compact, walkable transit-oriented villages.	2 Build connected climate-resilient transit-oriented urban villages
As extreme weather conditions become more common, it is important to future-proof the community by building shelter, shade and other measures into the spaces and places people use every day.	Richmond's public spaces, City facilities and homes and businesses are adaptable and support community resiliency with measures that mitigate climate impacts (e.g., cooling) and speed recovery from weather events.	3 Future-proof public and private spaces and places

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation: Pathways to Success



Build connected climate-resilient transit-oriented urban villages

What can we do?

Building connected, transit-oriented urban villages is the single-most impactful land use planning response the City can use to address the challenges of climate change. The design and development of new urban villages will be guided by a “climate lens” that will embed climate-based decision-making into community planning and strengthen public resiliency to the impacts and events arising from a changing climate.

What is a transit-village?

A transit-village is a compact, walkable urban community that clusters shops, services, multi-unit housing (e.g., apartments, townhouses, SSMUH) within easy reach of residents’ daily needs, including parks, schools, jobs, amenities and existing or future frequent transit service.

What are the benefits?

Climate **Mitigation** Benefits

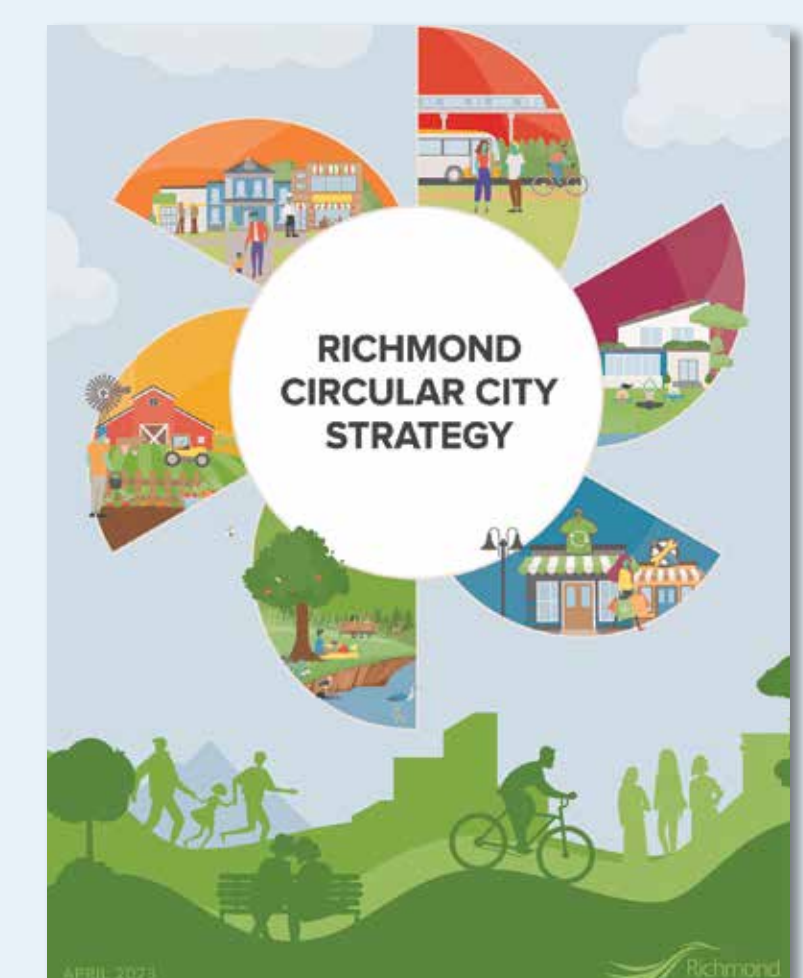
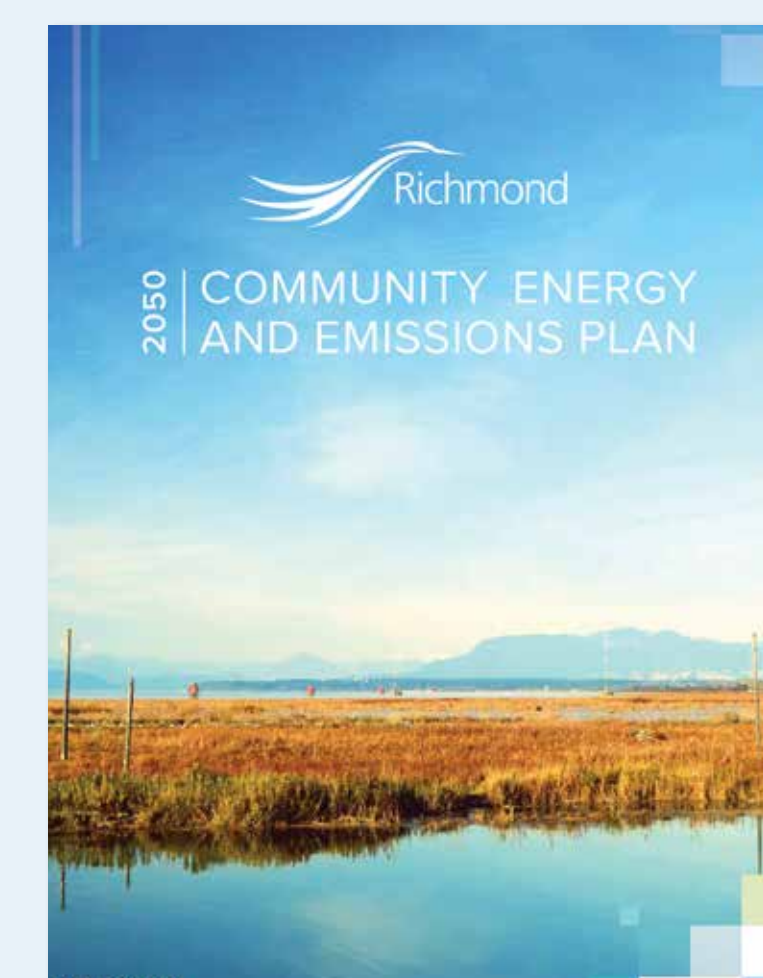
- Residents rely less on cars to get to their daily needs
- New energy efficient buildings, features and infrastructure
- Safe, connected and attractive walking, rolling and cycling networks
- Increased village populations contribute to better transit service
- Compact communities may facilitate low carbon district energy systems that reduce emissions and provide more affordable heating and cooling

Climate **Adaptation** Benefits

- A connected network of climate-responsive public spaces and places enhances livability and equitable access to daily needs throughout villages and neighbouring areas (e.g., shade and weather protection).
- Indoor and outdoor emergency hubs integrated with everyday spaces and uses (e.g., village square, village shops or community facility) support a commonsense approach to dealing with climate-related events and other urgent situations.



Key City initiatives



Richmond’s Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) 2050

Sets a path to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50% by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

Richmond’s Circular City Strategy

Prioritizes a collaborative approach to responsible consumption and a sustainable, equitable, low-carbon economy.

Lulu Island Energy Company (LIEC)

A City-owned district energy utility delivering low cost, low carbon heating and cooling and contributing to GHG reduction goals.

What else can we do?

Support local action

With climate-smart and energy initiatives implementable at the neighbourhood and household scale.

Increase community capacity for action

With programs supporting climate-smart knowledge and awareness.

Support Continuous Improvement

By measuring and monitoring contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation with standardized criteria for public and private places and spaces.

Support future planning of Local Villages

With a climate-smart approach to building design, complete communities and future-proofing public places.

Environmental Protection and Enhancement: Pathways to Success



How can land use planning contribute to Richmond’s natural areas?

Land use planning can significantly contribute to the management of natural areas and assets by balancing development with conservation to ensure that ecological integrity is maintained through City zoning, policies and plans.

Why is this important?

As Richmond grows, natural areas are increasingly vulnerable to stress and fragmentation due to population growth, urban development and climate change. Protecting and enhancing natural areas and assets is critical to the long-term health and well-being of Richmond residents and the environment.

What are we doing today?

A Natural Areas Conservation approach is employed to protect and enhance Richmond’s Ecological Network (EN) by promoting connectivity, prioritizing biodiversity and maintaining ecological health. This includes working to restore habitats, mitigate the environmental impacts of urbanization, and deliver environmental and socio-economic benefits to the community, together with continually advancing the City’s understanding of the complex dynamics governing the EN to better inform the development and implementation of short- and long-term policies and strategies.

Natural areas conservation is most effective when it is applied at ALL scales.

Large



Medium



Small



What are the challenges?	What does 2050 look like?	How do we get there?
Urban growth contributes to habitat fragmentation. If not managed, community impacts from the loss of natural areas can include adverse health impacts, biodiversity loss and resource depletion.	Across the city, connected ecological corridors are a key feature of the landscape, contributing to healthy ecosystems, supporting species movement across habitats, and enhancing a livable, equitable, climate-resilient urban community.	<div>1</div> <div>Protect and enhance Richmond’s natural assets</div>
While municipalities are at the forefront of complex, environmental protection decision-making, senior governments hold most of the legislative authority and financial resources to safeguard local environmental quality.	Richmond is a leader in fostering partnerships – with residents, business, senior government and others – to steward the natural environment and minimize waste and pollution.	<div>2</div> <div>Foster environmental stewardship</div>
Climate change threatens City infrastructure with increased flooding, heat and sea-level rise, which can damage buildings and critical infrastructure, disrupt transportation, water systems and energy supply, and potentially cause significant economic and social consequences.	Across Richmond, green infrastructure integrates innovative, sustainable solutions into the built environment with measures that mimic natural processes, tackle urban challenges (e.g., pollution, heat) and support biodiversity.	<div>3</div> <div>Prioritize green infrastructure and innovation</div>

Environmental Protection and Enhancement: Pathways to Success



Pathway 1

Protect and enhance Richmond's natural assets



1

Preserve, enhance, steward, and increase the quantity and quality of nature, ecosystems and biodiversity that contribute to community well-being.

What can we do?

- Improve our understanding of natural assets, ecosystems and biodiversity
- Strengthen protection and enhancement policies
- Strengthen connectivity between natural areas hand-in-hand with City and private development

OCP Update proposal

Prepare a Green-Blue Ecological Network Connectivity Plan to:

- Identify corridors and connections
- Enhance the urban forest
- Protect shoreline habitats while balancing flood protection needs
- Integrate ecosystem services and carbon sequestration into streetscapes
- Improve biodiversity city-wide

Pathway 2

Foster environmental stewardship



2

Enact and enforce environmental regulations, promote community stewardship and implement innovative solutions for resource management and waste reduction.

What can we do?

- Strengthen City regulations and enforcement regarding pollution, water quality, waste and environmental protection
- Foster awareness and sustainable practices with educational programs for residents, business and schools
- Partner with senior government, indigenous communities, academic institutions and others to leverage funding and resources

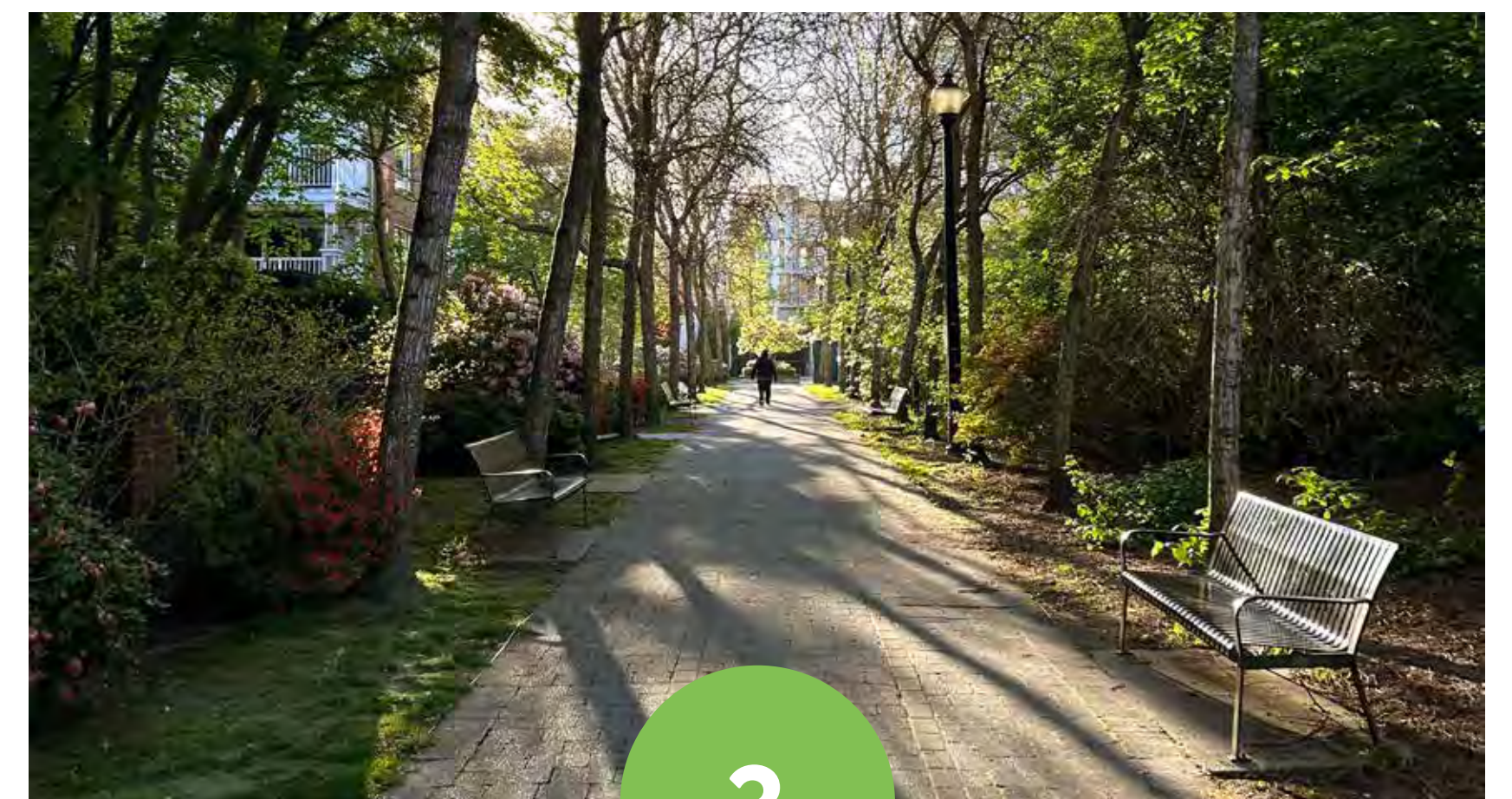
OCP Update proposal

Prepare a Biodiversity Assessment and Urban Design Action Plan to:

- Align urban design and ecological principles
- Deepen ecosystem understanding
- Generate high-quality data to guide planning and monitoring
- Foster collaborative stewardship

Pathway 3

Prioritize green infrastructure and innovation



3

Retain, expand and guide the development of equitably distributed green infrastructure that contributes to Richmond's livability, climate change resilience and community well-being.

What can we do?

- Reduce non-permeable surfaces that contribute to storm water run-off, pollution and flooding
- Increase tree canopy and vegetation to improve air quality and reduce urban temperatures
- Promote green spaces that support wildlife habitat, pollinators and urban biodiversity
- Provide green spaces and places that support recreation, social interaction and mental health

OCP Update proposal

Prepare an Urban Forest Action Plan to:

- Set measurable targets for tree planting and canopy cover city-wide
- Ensure the equitable distribution of trees and their benefits
- Promote climate-resilient tree species
- Align urban forest initiatives with climate, health and equity goals

Environmental Protection and Enhancement: Pathways to Success



What is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)?

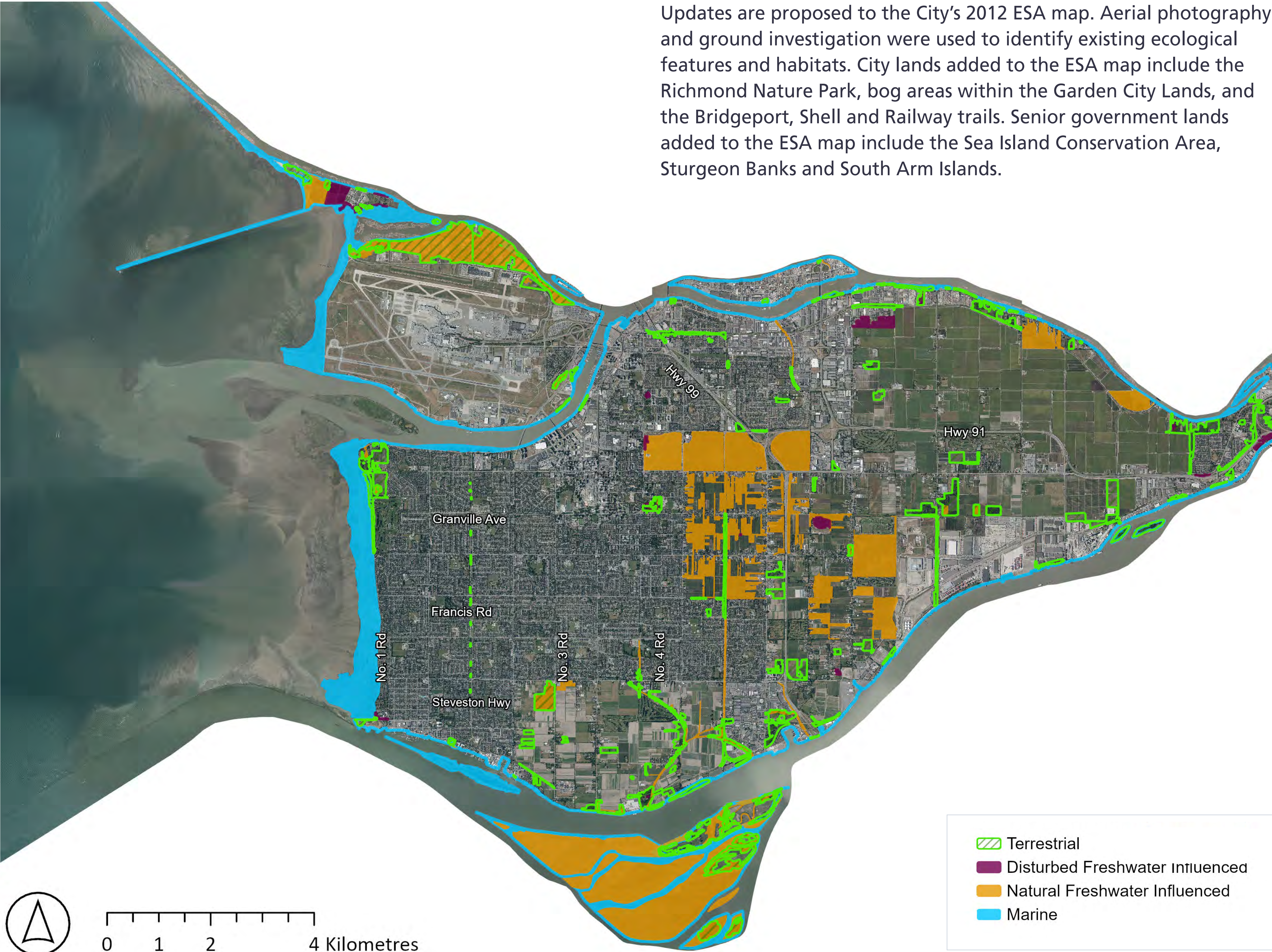
The City’s ESA designation is a tool for protecting and enhancing areas of ecological significance and is applied to lands that are identified as having important ecological features and natural assets.

How are ESA lands managed?

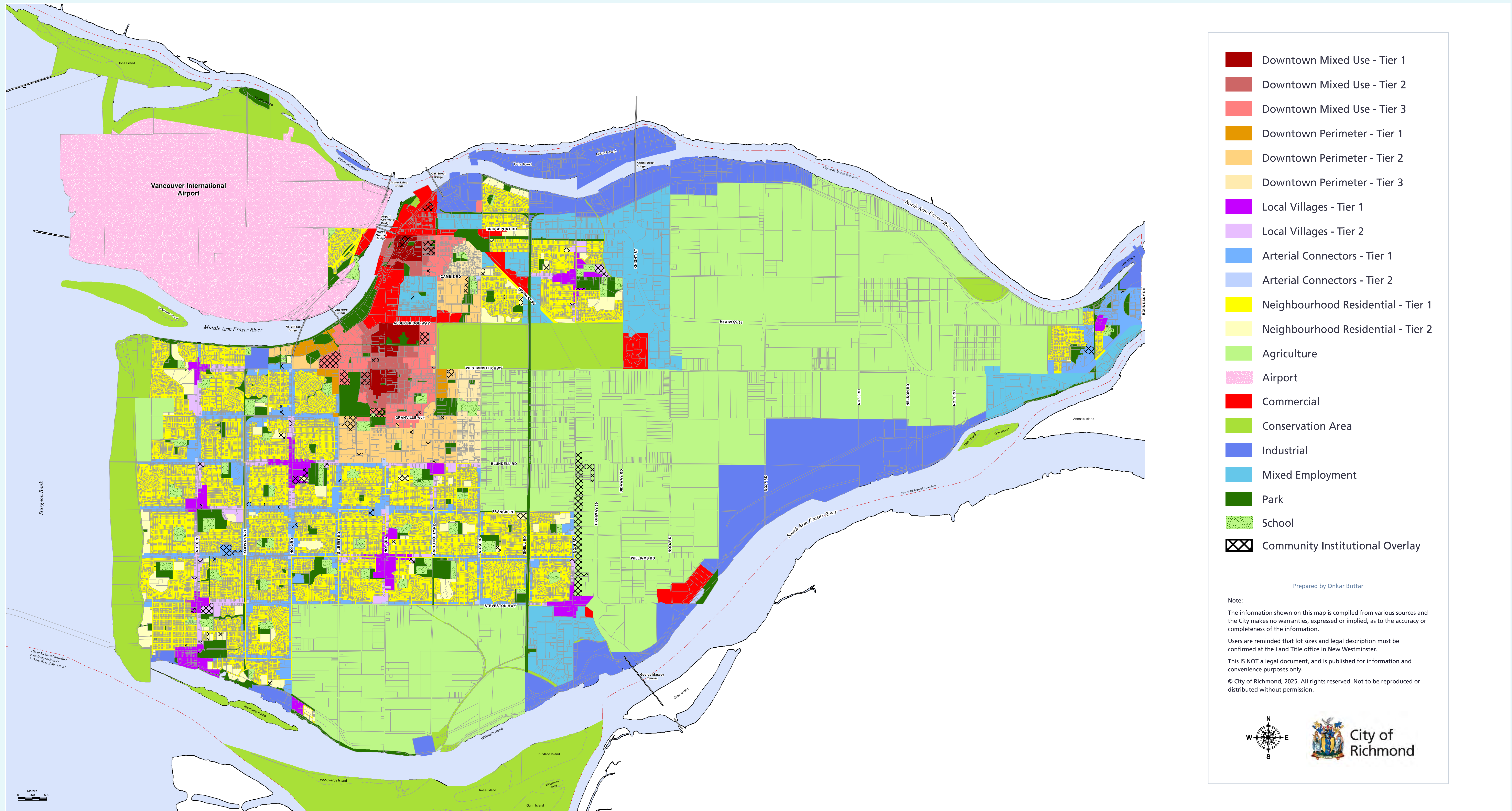
ESA lands are part of the City’s Environmental Network (EN) and are designated as a Development Permit (DP) area. Development within an ESA may require ESA DP approval by Council and, where applicable, may require the protection, preservation and/or enhancement of sensitive ecological features (e.g., wildlife habitat, protected species and the foreshore). Some uses are exempt from an ESA DP process, such as development consistent with the City’s Farming First Strategy and uses regulated by senior government.

How does the OCP Update affect the ESA?

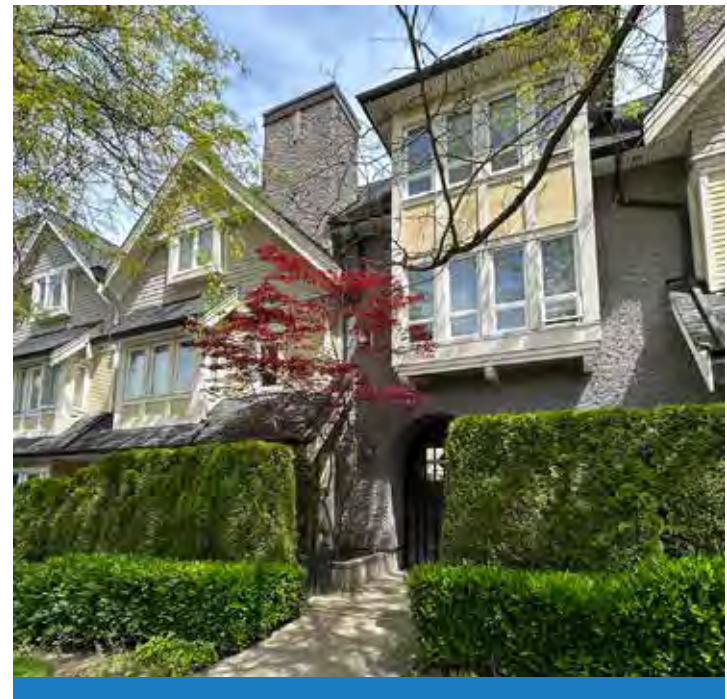
Updates are proposed to the City’s 2012 ESA map. Aerial photography and ground investigation were used to identify existing ecological features and habitats. City lands added to the ESA map include the Richmond Nature Park, bog areas within the Garden City Lands, and the Bridgeport, Shell and Railway trails. Senior government lands added to the ESA map include the Sea Island Conservation Area, Sturgeon Banks and South Arm Islands.



OCP Update 2050: DRAFT Land Use Map



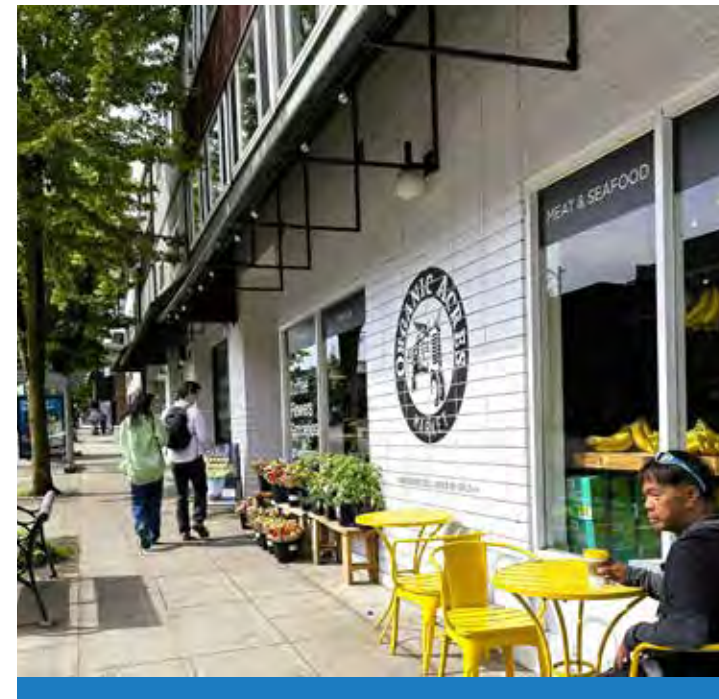
OCP Update 2050: Complete, Connected Villages



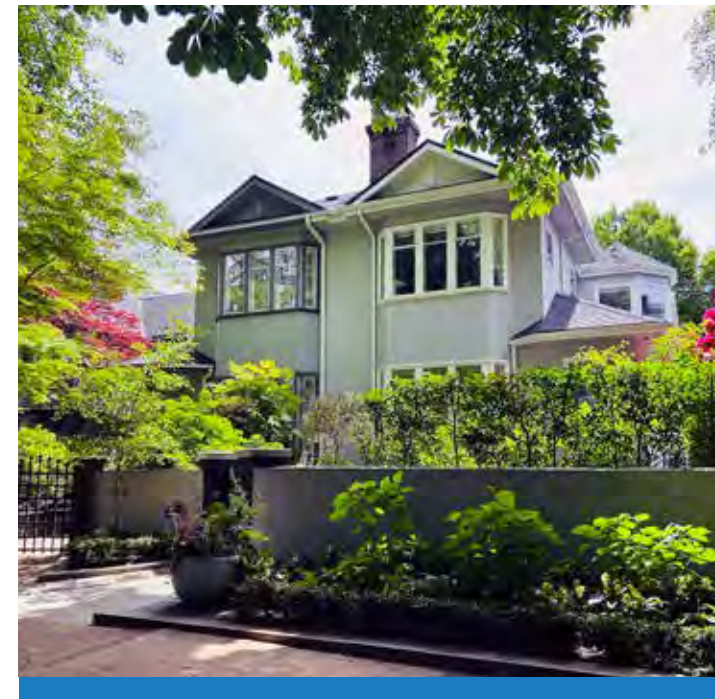
Townhouses



Apartments



Village "High Street"



Small-Scale
Multi-Unit Housing



Expanded Tree Canopy



Connected Bike Routes



Child Care and
Community Services



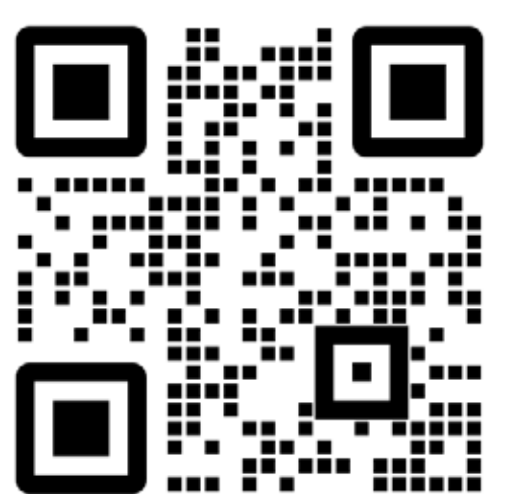
Parks and
Green Spaces

Thank you for getting involved!

Your feedback will inform the OCP update process to help:

- Guide the City's growth plan;
- Deliver more housing affordability, supply and choices;
- Support a more equitable community;
- Strengthen the City's land use response to climate; and
- Enhance the City's environmental and natural assets.

Share Your Feedback



Complete the survey by 11:59pm on Sunday, July 20, 2025.

Visit the project website for the SURVEY and more information:

LetsTalkRichmond.ca/ocp2050-phase2