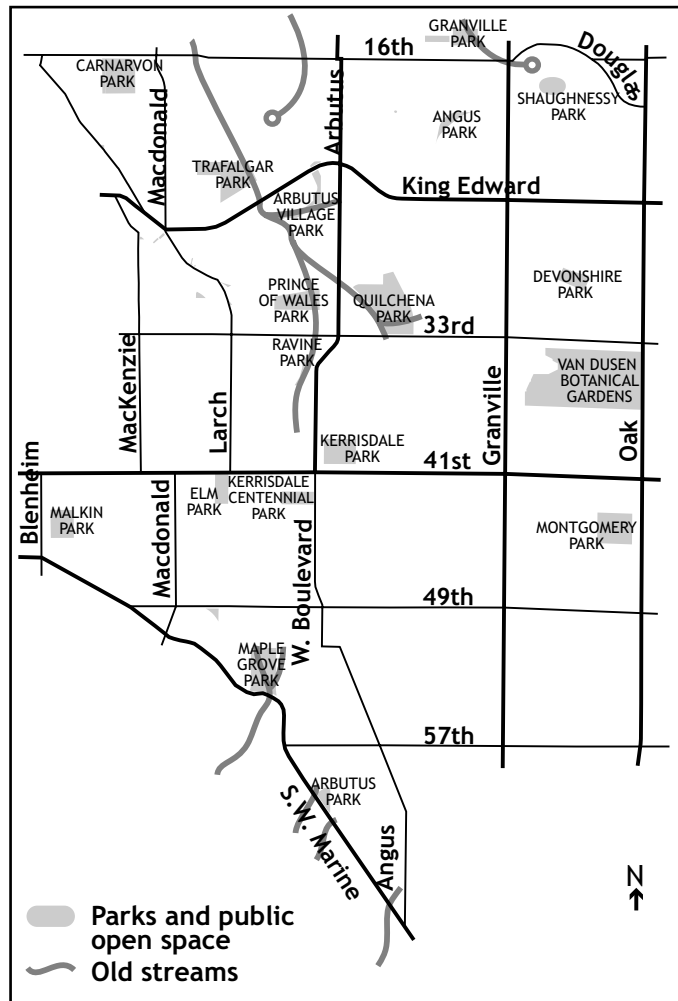




PARKS, STREETS, LANES, AND PUBLIC PLACES

Vision participants noted that the well maintained parks, mature street trees, planted traffic circles, private gardens and landscaping around homes, and the design of public buildings all contribute to the overall character of Arbutus Ridge/Kerrisdale/Shoughnessy (ARKS). The Vision Directions in this section deal with parks, school grounds, gardens, streets, lanes, views, and public buildings.

Parks



24 Parks, Streets, Lanes, and Views



Maple Grove Park: play area

Parks are very important for recreation, beauty, and refreshment. ARKS is fortunate to have a variety of parks and public spaces. These include historic Shaughnessy streetscapes, a number of heritage trees, the King Edward Heritage Boulevard, Ravine Park, VanDusen Gardens, and more conventional parks, playgrounds, and play fields. In total, ARKS has 21 parks (not including VanDusen Gardens due to its city-serving nature), totalling 44 hectares (109 acres) of park. ARKS has 1.1 hectares of 'neighbourhood' park per thousand residents. This is the City standard. School grounds totalling 28 hectares (69 acres) are also important public spaces.

Streets and lanes typically take up about 30% of a community's land area and make an important contribution to the image of an area. The Park Board provides and maintains street trees, and has a program to plant them in all suitable locations. The City also has a 'Green Streets' Program which encourages residents to landscape traffic circles and corner bulges that are installed for traffic calming.

In 1989, the City began to protect selected public views which development threatened to block. The protected views are mainly from within the downtown looking outward, and from the Central Broadway and False Creek area looking over the downtown. Except for limited views from Queen Elizabeth, Clark, and John Hendry Parks, public views are not protected elsewhere in the city.

Other Directions related to Parks, Streets, Lanes, and Public Places are in the TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION and NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES sections.

24.1 Develop More Usable Parks and School Grounds

Approved

Park design, appearance and uses should be more varied in order to serve a variety of ages and a more diverse population. School grounds should also be attractive, usable community spaces.

Percent Agree 77%/78%

People's Ideas...

- build a playground feature in Devonshire Park in Shaughnessy
- provide a designated skateboard park space (locate it in Prince of Wales Park)
- locate an arboretum/info kiosk identifying all the trees in Crescent Park; promote certain trees associated with certain parks
- provide a special area in parks to allow activities for children or neighbours to gather and meet: rain shelters, 'pagodas', or picnic areas
- provide more non-commercial activities including chess, trails, skate park, public art and history markers, water fountains, walking paths with places to sit
- encourage greening and beautification of parks with plantings, more trees, and arboretums
- provide play structures for younger and older kids in parks (e.g. taller monkey bars and bigger rings)
- provide playground amenities like they had in old playgrounds (e.g. trolleys, tire swings, teeter totters, etc.)



Prince of Wales school grounds

Community Gardens

Community gardens are public lands where neighbours come together to grow fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Typically, community gardens have many small plots tended by individuals or families. These plots are often supported by common facilities for the use of everybody: compost, water, sometimes storage sheds for garden tools, and even gathering places, greenhouses, and shared garden areas such as a fruit orchard or a berry patch. They are often fenced to keep out dogs, but the public is welcome to enter and visit community gardens.

The Park Board supports the development of community gardens by giving assistance in searching for land, formalizing user agreements, developing environmental educational programs, and gathering basic information on garden development and operation.

24.2 Provide More Park and Public Open Space in Poorly-served Areas

Approved

There should be more parks and other open spaces available to the public in poorly-served areas of ARKS.

Percent Agree 68%/66%

People's Ideas...

- provide more green space or play areas for children between 41st and 57th, Arbutus and Granville
- have one day a month where the golf course is open to the public as a park
- have free admission to VanDusen Gardens one day a month

24.3 Incorporate Ravine Park into a Neighbourhood Greenway

Approved

Ravine Park should be incorporated into a new Neighbourhood Greenway connecting Kerrisdale Village with Arbutus Shopping Centre.

Percent Agree 69%/68%

People's Ideas...

- improve the lighting in Ravine Park to make it safe at night
- allow for a Greenway/walkway between Kerrisdale Village and Arbutus Shopping Centre using the Ravine Park trail

24.4 Improve Safety in and around Parks

Approved

Safety in and around parks should be improved. Park use, design, and maintenance should take safety further into account.

Percent Agree 81%/82%

People's Ideas...

- set back play areas further from street
- provide more police monitoring for parks and school grounds
- provide more lighting for sports fields
- fill in all the holes in parks for safety of children (e.g. Maple Grove and Trafalgar Parks)

24.5 Create More Community Gardens

Approved

Provide more opportunities for the creation of community gardens. Existing community gardens should be preserved and enhanced.

Percent Agree 70%/72%

People's Ideas...

- encourage community gardens on school grounds for educational and aesthetic purposes
- provide more grants for creating and maintaining community gardens
- negotiate with all major developments for park and community garden space



Community garden

24.6 Encourage Community Involvement in Parks

Approved

Community involvement in the design and stewardship of parks should be encouraged.

Percent Agree 71%/74%

People's Ideas...

- provide planting opportunities with community management
- encourage garden clubs for community gardens

24.7 Improve Maintenance of Parks

Approved

Park grounds, structures, and facilities should be better maintained.

Percent Agree 67%/64%

ParkPartners Program

ParkPartners is a Vancouver Park Board program which encourages citizens to volunteer and become involved in the stewardship of their local parks. The program seeks to:

- foster community pride and leadership
- provide support to those who want to make ideas, projects, and events happen
- encourage neighbours to get to know each other
- promote the cultural and ethnic diversity of the City, and
- help to keep our parks cleaner, greener, and safer



Public art fence

People's Ideas...

- need to better maintain community gardens (e.g. fix broken fences and dilapidated buildings)
- restore the old water fountain in Crescent Park

24.8 Ban Smoking in Public Places

Approved

School grounds, playgrounds and some public places within neighbourhood centres should be designated as non-smoking areas.

Percent Agree 73%/71%

People's Ideas...

- stop kids from smoking in front of Magee
- make Kerrisdale shopping area a 'no smoking' area

24.9 Share Parks and Public Places with Dogs

Approved

Parks should be shared between people with dogs and those without dogs, provided that parks remain safe and tidy for all park users.

Percent Agree 58%/62%

People's Ideas...

- strictly observe regulations regarding control over dogs
- require all dogs to be licensed and dog owners trained
- provide a training program for owners about tidiness and safety

24.10 Remove Dog Waste

Approved

More should be done to ensure dog owners clean up after their dogs and keep their pets under control.

Percent Agree 85%/89%

People's Ideas...

- have the dog owners' association produce educational material on responsible removal of dog waste
- provide bags for dog owners in parks

24.11 Provide More Public Art

Not Approved (Uncertain)

There should be more public art in parks, schools, and other public spaces like the community centre.

Percent Agree 56%/52%

People's Ideas...

- create a bronze sculpture at the community centre
- promote art work that reflects the history and heritage of the community
- provide public art on 41st
- have public art competitions with schools, ethnic groups, etc.
- encourage murals on blank building walls in locations like parking areas, schools, and the Kerrisdale Community Centre
- create two public art display spaces by bulging East Boulevard at 41st
- position public art to mask construction sites
- use public art in commercial lanes to hide unsightly garbage areas

Comment: This Direction did receive majority support in the general survey, but did not receive high enough agreement in the random survey to be classified as *Approved*. In the random survey, the Direction received substantially more agree votes than disagree votes (3.2 to 1). As a result, this Direction is classified as *Not Approved (Uncertain)* and remains on the table for consideration and public discussion in further planning.

24.12 Greening and Beautifying Public Streets

Approved

Streets should continue to be pleasant green links that connect the neighbourhood by:

- protecting existing boulevards and street trees, and planting new trees wherever possible
- encouraging residents to extend private gardening into the space between the sidewalk and the curb
- encouraging residents to landscape

traffic calming devices (i.e. traffic circles and corner bulges) through the 'Green Streets' program

- providing amenities like benches for people to socialize and rest before walking further.

Percent Agree 84%/87%

People's Ideas...

- locate benches and planted areas on King Edward Boulevard and other boulevards and medians
- have a 'Welcome to Kerrisdale' sign instead of the billboard on Arbutus at 37th
- provide more education about opportunities to plant gardens, boulevards, traffic circles, etc.
- have public displays highlighting the winners of traffic circle/bulge garden competitions in public areas
- get rid of overhead wires

Country Lanes Program

The City of Vancouver has developed an alternative to the traditional asphalt lane. A 'Country Lane' uses materials that allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground while providing a durable surface for vehicles to drive on. The first lane in this pilot project was constructed in the fall of 2002 providing residents with a space that slows traffic, is aesthetically pleasing, and is more environmentally responsible.

The lane features two narrow strips of concrete that provide a smooth driving surface. The area around these strips is planted with grass that is supported below the surface by a hidden grid. This 'structural grass' supports vehicles while preventing rutting and soil compaction that would damage grass roots. Under this hidden grid is a gravel and soil mixture that allows for drainage while providing the nutrients and water required for grass growth.

Allowing precipitation to percolate into the ground helps reduce and slow the water that would have otherwise quickly entered the sewers and in some instances flowed in to adjacent creeks. This helps recharge groundwater and

reduces peak flows into rivers. The increased vegetation in this lane design filters storm water, improves air quality, and helps combat the 'heat island effect' that can raise temperatures in heavily developed areas.

The country lane design was approved by Council in 2004 as an option for the Local Improvement Program.



'Country Lane' - an alternative to a paved lane

24.13 Greening Lanes

Approved

Lanes in ARKS can be unattractive and not environmentally friendly. There should be alternatives such as country lanes, gravel lanes, etc. that allow for more greenery and more permeability for rain water. A range of alternatives should be offered to homeowners when they vote on lane improvements.

Percent Agree 74%/76%

People's Ideas...

- publicize the country lanes program and have the City provide incentives for country lanes
- provide planted areas around parking and garbage areas
- design lanes to encourage foot traffic
- look at alternatives for lane maintenance (e.g. have local groups volunteer)

24.14 Preserve Public Views

Approved

Views from public places of the water, North Shore mountains, downtown Vancouver, and other panoramas should be protected. Viewpoints should be made more enjoyable.

Percent Agree 88%/90%



Encourage greening of boulevards



Scenic view from King Edward

People’s Ideas...

- preserve the view from Quilchena Park and along the Ridge
- maintain views to the water and mountains
- take into account public views and topography when subdividing land
- promote and build public ‘view spots’

People’s Ideas...

- complete seismic upgrades of existing schools
- replace portables with good additions
- create a strong building identity for the Kerrisdale Community Centre and prominent entrance

25 Public Buildings

In ARKS, many existing public buildings like schools and the Hellenic Centre (at Arbutus and Nanton) are landmarks and provide many fond memories for residents.

Vision participants felt public buildings and especially schools should meet particularly high design and construction standards because they are heavily used and symbolically important. All designs should be welcoming, easy to access, and have significant landscaping. Residents should also have opportunities to provide input in the development of these public buildings.

25.2 Develop Well-designed Public Buildings

Approved

New public buildings should be well designed and well maintained. Landscaping should be included in all public buildings and site designs.

Percent Agree 87%/90%

People’s Ideas...

- make schools less institutional in design
- have new buildings ‘fit in’ with surrounding residential character



Hellenic Centre

25.1 Retain Existing Public Buildings

Approved

Existing major public buildings with heritage character should be retained and well maintained, with renovations and additions compatible with the existing building’s style.

Percent Agree 82%/79%