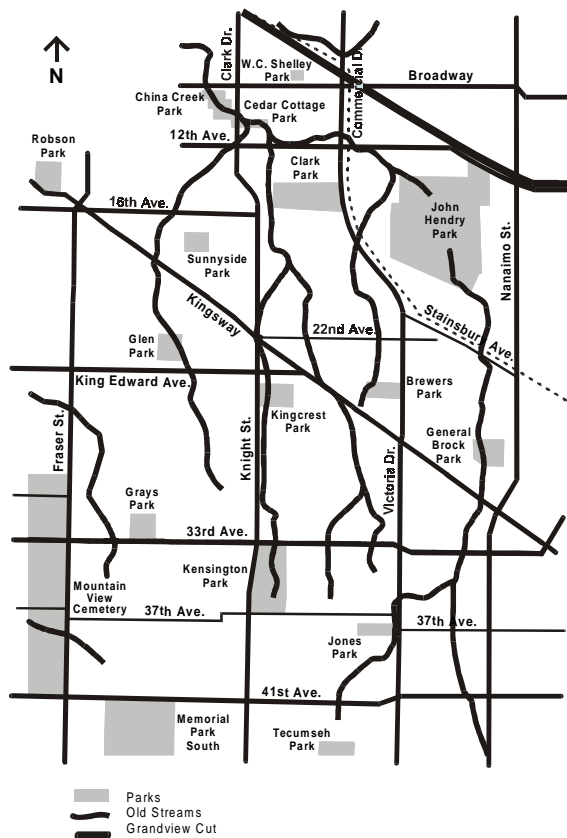




# Greening, Parks and Public Places

This Vision considers challenges to KCC’s landscape and public places including: a very diverse community with all ages, family types and ethnic backgrounds; new development of houses and apartments; lots of wide arterial streets; and poor landscape installation and maintenance. It focuses on the idea of “greening” using planting and public spaces to meet various needs: enhancing community appearance, improving air quality and water drainage, creating places that encourage a variety of activities, and reintroducing nature to balance the urban quality of much of KCC.



## 24. Greening, Parks, Public Places

### Streets, Parks and Public Places

Streets and lanes make up about 30% of the area of the City, and are very important in the overall image of the neighbourhoods. Parks are also important public places. KCC currently exceeds City standards for neighbourhood park area and geographic distribution. Its parks range from small two to three acre local parks, to John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park at almost 70 acres. Other public or semi-public spaces include schools and institutions such as hospitals.

### Tree Bylaw and Landscape Control

In the single family zoned areas of KCC, the City's Tree Bylaw controls removal of large trees (i.e., over 8" diameter). For new development, removal is permitted only under certain conditions. Private owners may obtain a permit to remove one tree per year, unconditionally. In both cases, replacement trees are required.

Beyond tree control, there is no landscape review with new single family house development in KCC. For most development in the duplex, apartment, and mixed use zones, the City requires a landscaping plan to be submitted showing areas of planting and paving.

### Grandview Cut

The City owns the Grandview Cut except for the railroad tracks at the bottom. The Cut is included in the GVRD's "Green Zone". In 1996 Council passed a motion that no vehicular roadway be considered for the future of the Cut. A Citywide Greenway route is planned along the Cut, and part of it exists as the BC Parkway. Under the Transportation Plan, rail use will continue, and if discontinued in the future the first priority will be for transit or Greenways corridor. As of Summer 1998, the Cut is also being considered, by the Province, to include a new SkyTrain route on one or other of its embankments.

## Approved Vision Directions

### 24.1 More Greening in Public Places

More "greening" should occur in a wide range of public places to improve community appearance; make spaces more pleasant and useable; compensate for the traffic and wide areas of pavement; and promote better air quality and storm water control:

- more and larger trees should be planted on streets and in parks
  - more alternatives for lanes besides completely unpaved or completely paved
  - community gardens in unused street allowance, under SkyTrain
- Support %: 85/9/6

People's ideas...

- bigger trees on Knight, Kingsway
- planting small leftover pieces of land like "triangles" along Kingsway
- 19th Ave greenway, mini-parks like Windsor Castle; vacant lots, private yards, institutions
- saving Commercial St. trees
- lanes with just centre paved, or two paved driving strips

### 24.2 More Community Action on Greening

Community action should be a major force in making "greening" happen. In addition to undertaking practical projects, volunteer effort should go into educating about gardening, landscape stewardship, and different cultural values.

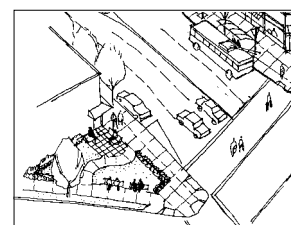
Support %: 79/17/4

People's ideas...

- Van Dusen & Farm Folk/City Folk programs
- demonstration gardens
- neighbourhood plant swap
- multicultural ideas exchange
- city tree voucher program; rain barrel program
- community chipper and composting
- school information programs
- tree and plant inventories compiled by volunteers
- education/incentives for tenants to garden; education programs



Relocating large trees



Greening opportunity: Kingsway triangle



Residents greening a local street (Garden Drive)

### 24.3 More Greening on Private Sites

Private owners, tenants, landlords and developers should contribute to “greening”:

- new developments should keep portions of the site free of paving and development, to allow both for plantings and natural water drainage
- planting and proper maintenance should occur in front and back yards of houses and other buildings, as well as on apartment balconies and patios
- back lanes should be attractive, without continuous walls of garages, and with greenery in backyards visible through and over fences

Support %: 71/16/13



Paved lane and garages

### 24.4 Preserving Existing Private Greenery

There should be more preservation of existing trees and major shrubs on private sites. If trees or shrubs must be removed for redevelopment, they should be recycled to other locations if possible.

Support %: 74/13/13

People’s ideas...

- stricter tree bylaw; tree and plant inventories: plant swaps

### 24.5 More Usable Parks and School Grounds

Park design, appearance, and activities should be more varied in order to serve the diverse population. A number of parks should be reviewed and upgraded with community input. Possibilities are: John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park, Clark Park, Gray’s Park, Kingcrest Park. School grounds should also be transformed into attractive, usable community spaces.

Support %: 87/10/3

People’s ideas...

- community gardens; playgrounds; more benches for seniors; community activities like the Farmer’s Market; naturalized landscaping with bird and animal habitat; casual sports like skateboarding, basketball; off leash dog areas; dog poop disposals; areas to sit and talk; public art;

bigger trees; better signage; community bulletin boards; highlighting of vistas; commemorating old streams through public art or opening them up

### 24.6 Grandview Cut

The Grandview Cut should be preserved as a green zone, wildlife corridor, and public amenity, while recognizing its rail and possible transit role. It should be better linked into the community, particularly at Broadway and Commercial, through bike and walking trails alongside or in the Cut.

Support %: 78/15/7

### 24.7 Public Views

Views to the mountains and water from public places, like parks and major streets, should be protected.

Support %: 87/9/3

People’s ideas...

- identify key views like Kensington and Clark Parks, Knight Street, Commercial Drive, and control heights of new developments



John Hendry Park: lake activities and scenic view



Grandview Cut