

WALKING TOUR 2:

false creek south west

walking tour summary
november 25, 2017

WALKING TOUR WEST

Participants met at Laurel Street and 7th Avenue and walked north over the Laurel Landbridge into Charleson Park. Walking westward through the Spruce neighborhood enclaves, we briefly stopped at False Creek Elementary School before heading north to Ironwork Passage. There, we observed the Spruce Harbour Marina live-aboard co-op on the south shore of False Creek just east of Granville Island. Wandering through the adjacent enclave we headed south to Lamey's Mill Road and walked up the hill to Fountain Way. The tour ended along Shorepine Walk, where neighbourhood pathways and connections were identified as integral features of the community.

November 25, 2017
9:30 am - 11:30 am

False Creek South
Vancouver, BC

17 walking tour participants

False Creek South



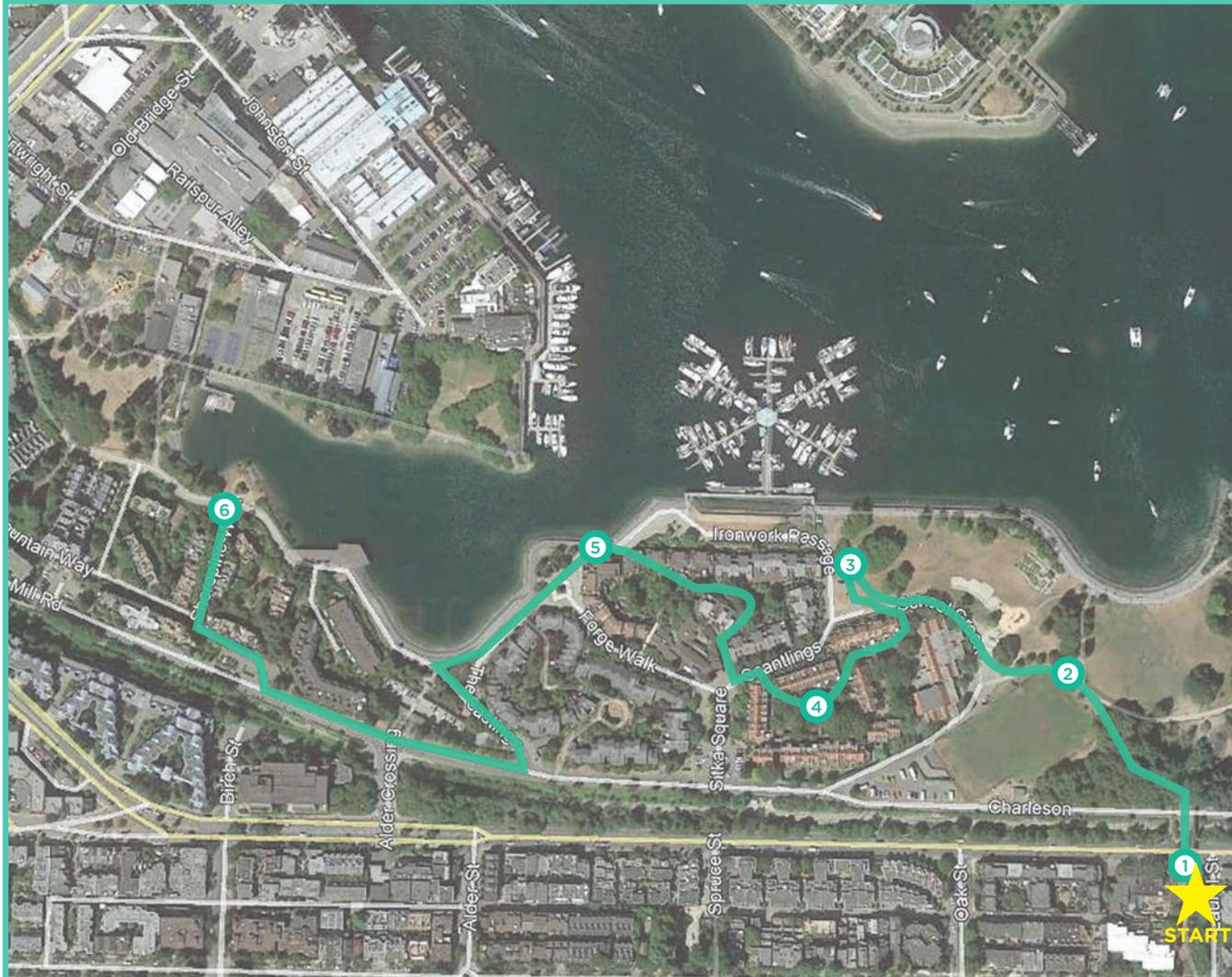


False Creek South Walking Tour 2 (west)

Saturday November 25th 2017

9:30am - 11:30am

Meeting Place: Laurel Landbridge, Laurel St. and 7th Ave.



TELL US
WHAT YOU THINK!

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WALKING TOUR - NOTES

Conversations throughout the tour included:

- Observations about trees obstructing the view from the Laurel Street Landbridge
- Charleson Park: commentary on the significance of larger parks to provide access to nature
 - The berm with its waterfall and trees was created from land fill and was meant to replicate a 'natural landscape'. A popular feature of FCS
 - The Berm is valued, but context has changed over time. Open question: potential for change?
 - The importance of abundant park space in False Creek South and a desire to keep it this way
- Acknowledgement of risks associated with sea-level rise and the challenges posed for future of development close to water's edge
 - Consideration given to the Seawall's response to this challenge
- The FCSNA neighbourhood is unique and innovative in its time.
 - The neighbourhood was 'designed' or as some might say 'socially engineered'
 - Very successful despite some early predictions to the contrary
- Changes in design approach from very unique 'donut' in Phase 1 to more conventional buildings forms of Phase 2, yet still highly livable and safe feeling environment
- Cohesive quality of the design - integration/co-existence of public pathways with private enclave spaces
 - The result a safe community, (no cars lots of social interaction) and good quality of life
- Significance of the social mix in the community, mix of tenures, importance of co-ops in building social networks and connections
 - Given the desire to socially mix the residents it isn't immediate apparent which development is strata, co-ops or non-market housing or other forms of assisted living
- Social elements and community connections in FCS
 - True community sharing - neighbourhoods know each other, eat together, celebrate milestones, etc
 - A good place for families
 - Desire to create opportunity for more people to experience this quality of living in a multi-family environment
 - Kids love to play around the neighborhood, which denotes feelings of safety in neighbourhood
- Housing design - unique enclaves embodying the spirit of the time to create a new vernacular residential architecture
 - The limit on the lifespan of wood frame housing is much longer than previously assumed due to better protection of the wood, higher levels of information and education among building professionals (Pierre Gallant of Morisson Hershfield quoted on this)
 - Importance of light access in the interior enclaves
- Challenge of greening buildings in the community
 - Retrofit or re-build at higher standards/densities as buildings age out?
- Challenges of balancing an aging population with limited one bedrooms, and welcoming new families to ample 2-3 bedroom stock

WALKING TOUR - NOTES

- Flexibility of the enclave spaces to adapt to changing needs and users, and providing a place to create dialogue, exercise compromise/trade-offs (eg children's play co-existing with gardeners)
- School also blends in with the neighbouring housing
 - Some kids that go to school live in the "live aboard" co-op (cool!)
 - Given the number of families in the area the school is having difficulties accommodating all the students in its catchment
- A desire to make 6th Avenue safer for cyclists and more pedestrian-friendly
- Currently there is a lack of central community space/a known gathering area
- Questions and discussion about viable locations, sizes, formats of local-serving commercial for the community
 - Not much retail or other commercial in the neighbourhood though it was pointed out that there was more retail in the original plans
 - Perhaps more retail fronts on the seaside to activate the edge and increase animation, flow of people, and complement recreational activities