

What is the Public Realm?

The public realm is simply all public space where people interact in public. It's the streets, lanes, parks, plazas and other communal spaces in a neighbourhood.

Why is having a Public Realm Plan important?

The public realm is a major part of a neighbourhood's attractiveness and unique character. It can encourage people to use sustainable transportation modes - to walk, cycle or use transit by creating special public places and by improving connections to and between those places. It can improve community connections by providing attractive, functional spaces for socializing and recreating. It helps make a neighbourhood a successful and desirable place to live and to work. To achieve these benefits, a Public Realm Plan outlines a comprehensive, strategic approach to how the public realm is developed and enhanced.

How will the Public Realm Plan be realized?

The Plan will provide directions for changes to the public realm over the next 30 years. The Plan ideas, concepts and improvements will occur through three primary ways:

- Investments by the City such as when parks are improved or through programs such as Street-to-Park;
- When individual sites redevelop to enhance streetscape or provide public plazas; and
- Through community initiatives such as those to enhance boulevards, create art projects and animate lanes.

Where do we start?

Each of the draft recommendations on the following boards have a suggested priority - low, medium or high. These were arrived at using earlier community feedback, consultant advice and considering related City-wide priorities. The high priorities are areas where implementation actions will be focused initially, and as opportunities arise through new development.

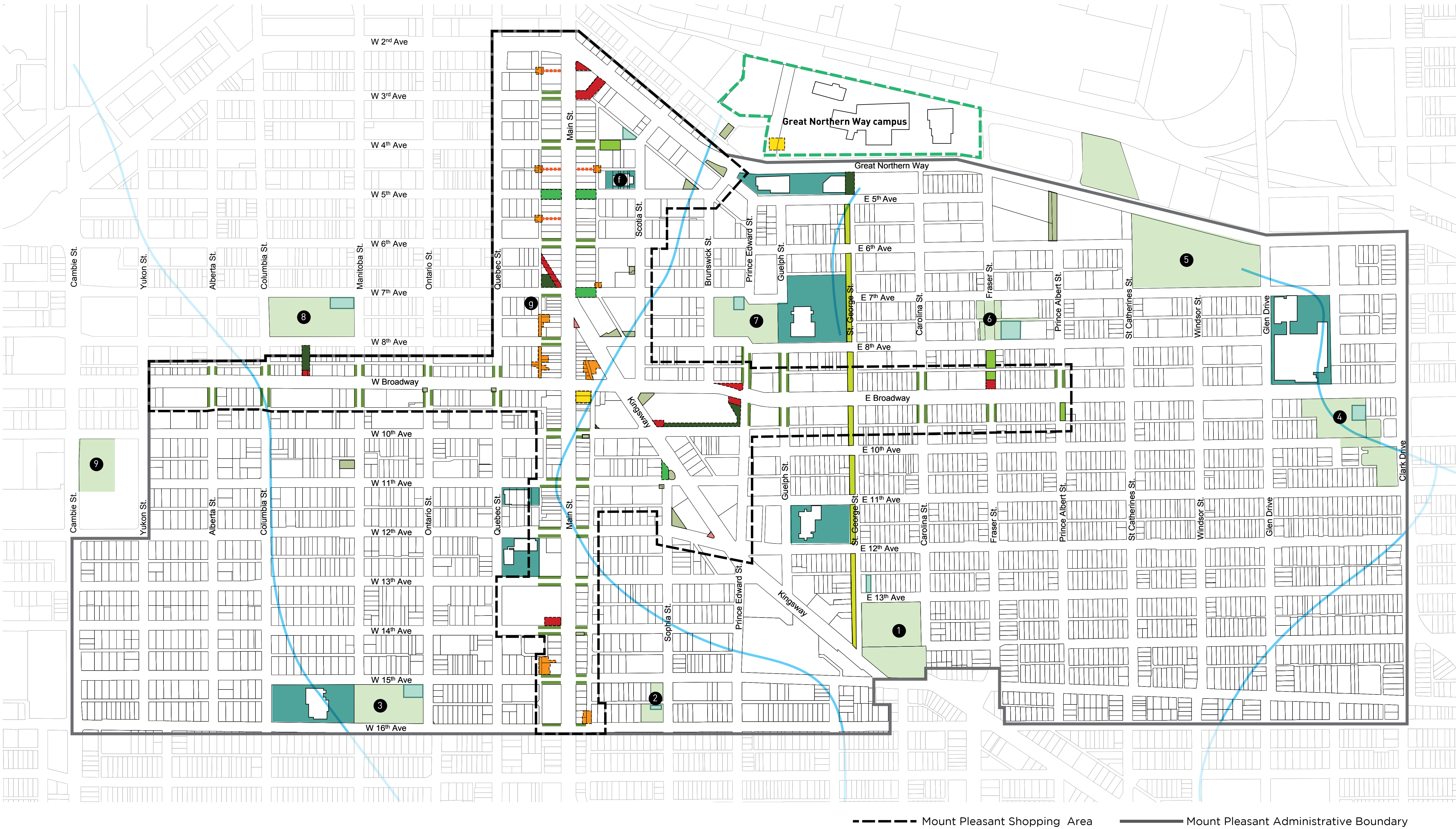


Draft Public Realm Plan

Parks and Plazas

Mount Pleasant Community Plan Implementation: Open House June 2013

A majority of Mount Pleasant is served well by a 5 minute walk to a park. Parks, Pocket Parks, Plazas, and Greenways provide opportunities for neighbors, residents, merchants, and visitors to gather, play, recreate, rest, meet, and connect to nature. These amenities enrich the neighborhood when they are diverse in character, scale, and activity. All these amenities within the Public Realm need to work together to provide a rich environment of activity, animation, and nature. The Parks and Plazas strategies suggest ways in which layers of these elements work together to complement Mount Pleasant.



Legend

- Existing Park
- Existing Schools
- Existing Urban Agriculture
- Existing Pocket Park
- Existing Plaza
- Potential Boulevard Park
- Proposed Street to Park
- Potential Street to Park
- Potential Pocket Park
- Potential Plaza
- Potential Special Events on Lane
- Proposed St. George Railway
- Future Subway Station
- Potential Midblock Passage

- 1 Robson Park
- 2 Tea Swamp Park
- 3 Mount Pleasant Park
- 4 China Creek South Park
- 5 China Creek North Park
- 6 Sahalli Park
- 7 Guelph Park
- 8 Jonathan Rogers Park
- 9 City Hall Park

Recommendations:

General:

- | | Priority |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Enhance boulevards on cross streets along Main Street to reinforce the connection to the lane. | MEDIUM HIGH |
| 2. Enhance boulevards on cross streets along Broadway to reinforce the connection to the lane. | LOW |
| 3. Incorporate random mid-block passages from the lane to Main Street at strategic locations. | MEDIUM |
| 4. Incorporate laneway plaza opportunities to reinforce the laneway activation and animation. | HIGH |
| 5. Incorporate Street-to-Park initiatives at strategic locations. | MEDIUM HIGH |
| 6. Provide more seating opportunities along Main and Broadway. | HIGH |
| 7. Incorporate pocket parks throughout Main Street / Broadway / Kingsway Corridor at strategic locations. | LOW |
| 8. Increase biodiversity of planting in parks. | MEDIUM |

Specific:

- | | Priority |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Reinforce St George as a "rainway"/artway street connecting Great Northern Way Campus to Kingsway. Make a rainwater/stormwater feature. | MEDIUM HIGH |
| 2. Enhance existing streetscape and plaza at corner of Kingsway and 12th Avenue | LOW |
| 3. Continue to explore open space, street-to-park and plaza opportunities for Fraser Street, north of Broadway. | MEDIUM |
| 4. Integrate station entry and optimize public realm opportunity at future station site. | HIGH |
| 5. Explore opportunities to create an off-leash dog park. | MEDIUM |
| 6. Incorporate features for both programmed and passive activities for Jonathan Rogers Park. | LOW |
| 7. Incorporate plaza at historic Mount Pleasant Car Barn at 14th Avenue and Main. | LOW |
| 8. Incorporate plaza and park to reinforce the Kingsway Termination on the West side of Main Street at 7th Avenue. | MEDIUM |
| 9. Incorporate plaza/mews on 3rd Avenue at east side of Main within street right of way. | LOW |
| 10. Incorporate plaza at 2nd Avenue and Main on SE corner. | MEDIUM |
| 11. Secure and develop laneway plaza in the triangle block at Main, Kingsway, and Broadway for temporary and special events. | HIGH |
| 12. Secure and develop plaza and park at Kingsgate Mall through development. | LOW |
| 13. Incorporate mid-block connection of park and plaza from Broadway to Jonathan Rogers Park. | LOW |

Design Ideas and Opportunities:



Pocket Park



Special Event on Lane



Street to Park/Plaza



Enhanced Boulevard / Parklet



Neighborhood Plaza



Enhanced Boulevard / Park

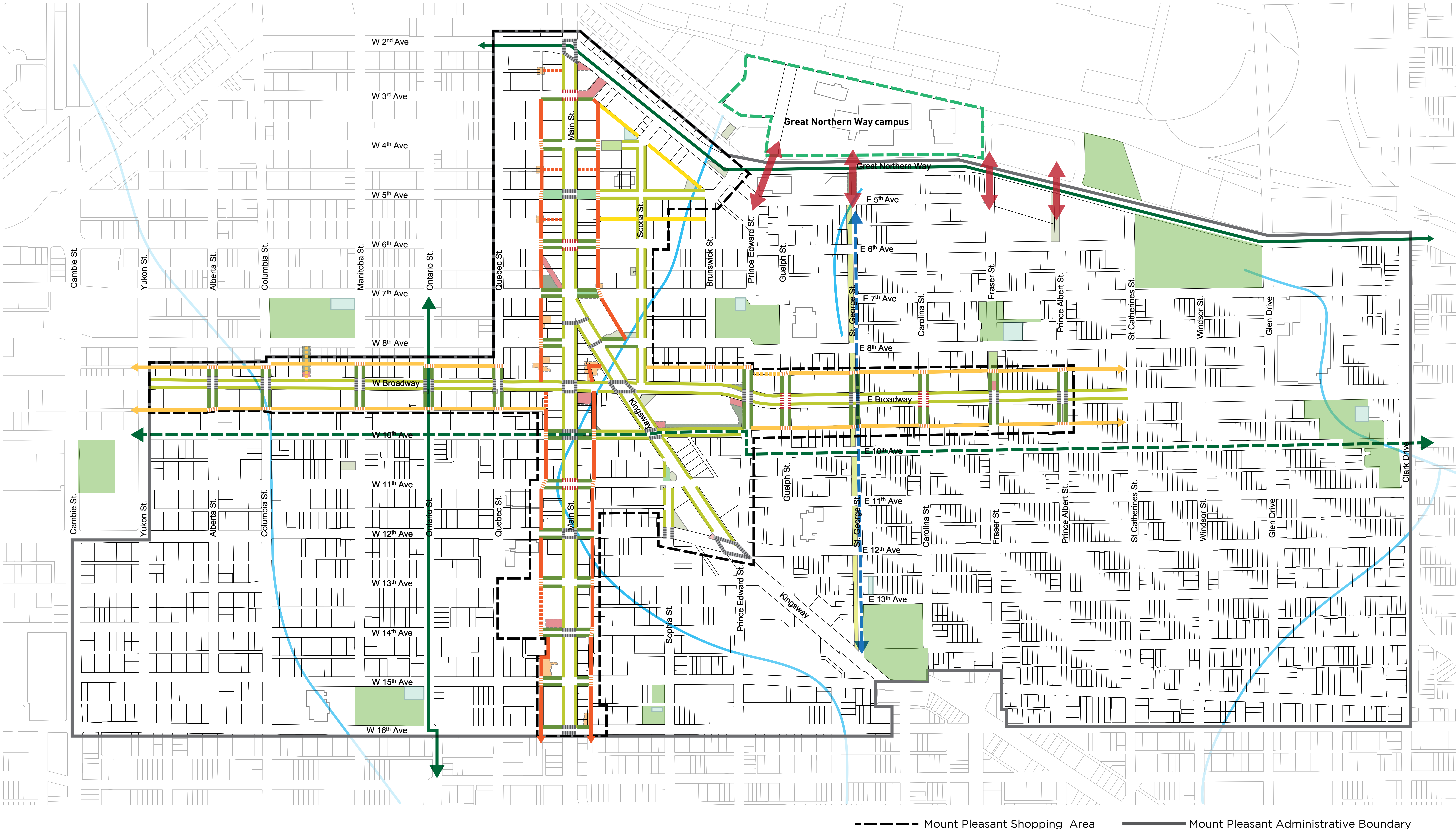
Draft Public Realm Plan

Enhanced Pedestrian Network



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Mount Pleasant is predominantly a walking community. The streets that get the least pedestrian traffic are the ones with a more hostile pedestrian environment. They are the ones without street trees, cross walks, benches, or interest. One of the key principles in the Community Plan is to reinforce and animate the character of the streets and lanes in Mount Pleasant. The Enhanced Pedestrian Network looks at how this principle can be achieved.



Legend

- Enhanced Main Street Laneway
- Enhanced Broadway Laneway
- Enhanced Laneway
- Existing Pedestrian Crossing With Light
- Potential Pedestrian Crossing With Light
- Potential Mid Block Crossing
- Potential Midblock Passage
- Enhanced Streetscape
- Existing Greenway
- Potential Greenway
- Potential St. George Rainway
- Reinforce Connectivity
- Potential Boulevard Parks

Recommendations:

General:

- | | Priority |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Create Main Street lane route. | MEDIUM
HIGH |
| 2. Create Broadway lane route. | LOW |
| 3. Improve walkability of lanes by creating a diverse paving pattern where applicable. | MEDIUM |
| 4. Where applicable, incorporate rain gardens to address storm water on lower Main Street areas and Broadway East and West. | MEDIUM |
| 5. Explore opportunities for alternate paving treatment and permeable materials in lanes. | MEDIUM |
| 6. Provide more seating opportunities along Main and Broadway. | HIGH |
| 7. Provide Mid-Block Crossings along Main Street laneways at strategic blocks to increase the lane connectivity. | HIGH |
| 8. Improve connectivity with Great Northern Way Campus. | LOW |
| 9. Enhance streetscape (sidewalks/boulevards) between Main and laneways. | HIGH |
| 10. Enhance streetscape (sidewalks/boulevards) between Broadway and laneways. | LOW
LOW
MEDIUM |
| 11. Provide mid-block pedestrian passage from Main Street to laneways at strategic blocks to increase the connectivity. | LOW |
| 12. Provide mid-block crossings, including decorative treatment, along laneways North and South of Broadway at strategic blocks to increase the lane connectivity. | LOW |
| 13. Provide mid-block crossings, including decorative treatment, along laneways East and West of Main Street at strategic blocks to increase the lane connectivity. | HIGH |
| 14. Keep streetscapes eclectic, edgy and diverse. | HIGH |

Specific:

- | | Priority |
|---|----------|
| 1. Make St. George a rainway/artway from Great Northern Way to Kingsway. | HIGH |
| 2. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side. | HIGH |
| 3. Create pedestrian crossing with pedestrian traffic light on Main at 6th Avenue. | MEDIUM |
| 4. Create pedestrian crossing with pedestrian traffic light on Main at 3rd Avenue. | MEDIUM |
| 5. Create pedestrian crossing with pedestrian traffic light on Main at 11th Avenue. | HIGH |
| 6. Create pedestrian crossing with pedestrian traffic light on Main at 3rd Avenue. | MEDIUM |
| 7. Create pedestrian crossing with pedestrian traffic light on Broadway at Guelph Street. | HIGH |
| 8. Create mid-block passage from Broadway to 8th Avenue to connect to Jonathan Rogers Park. | LOW |
| 9. Create pedestrian crossing with light on Broadway at Carolina Street. | HIGH |

Design Ideas and Opportunities:



Laneway Activation



Enhanced Boulevard



Green Laneway



Enhanced Boulevard



Mid-Block Crossing



Enhanced Streetscape

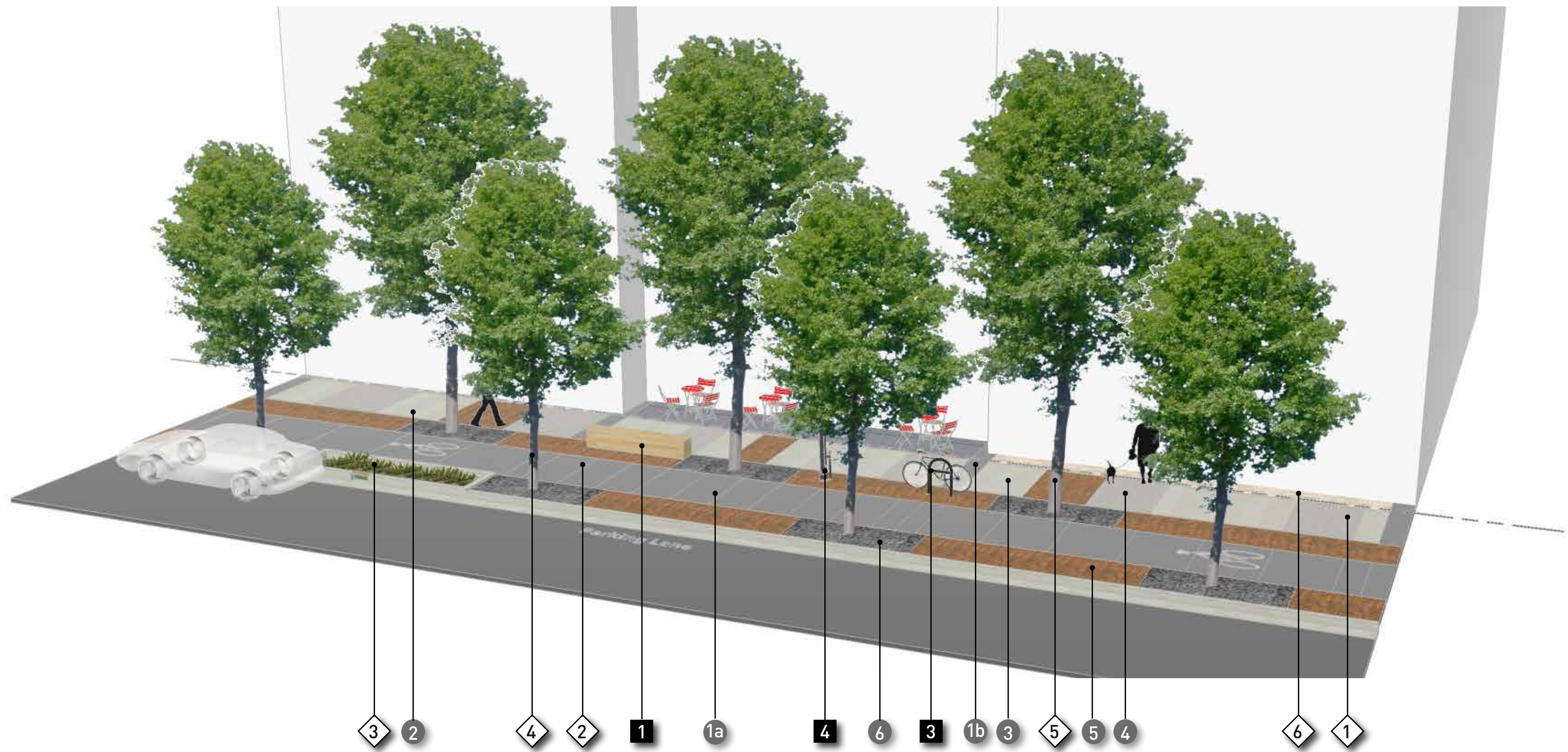
Draft Public Realm Plan

Enhanced Pedestrian Network

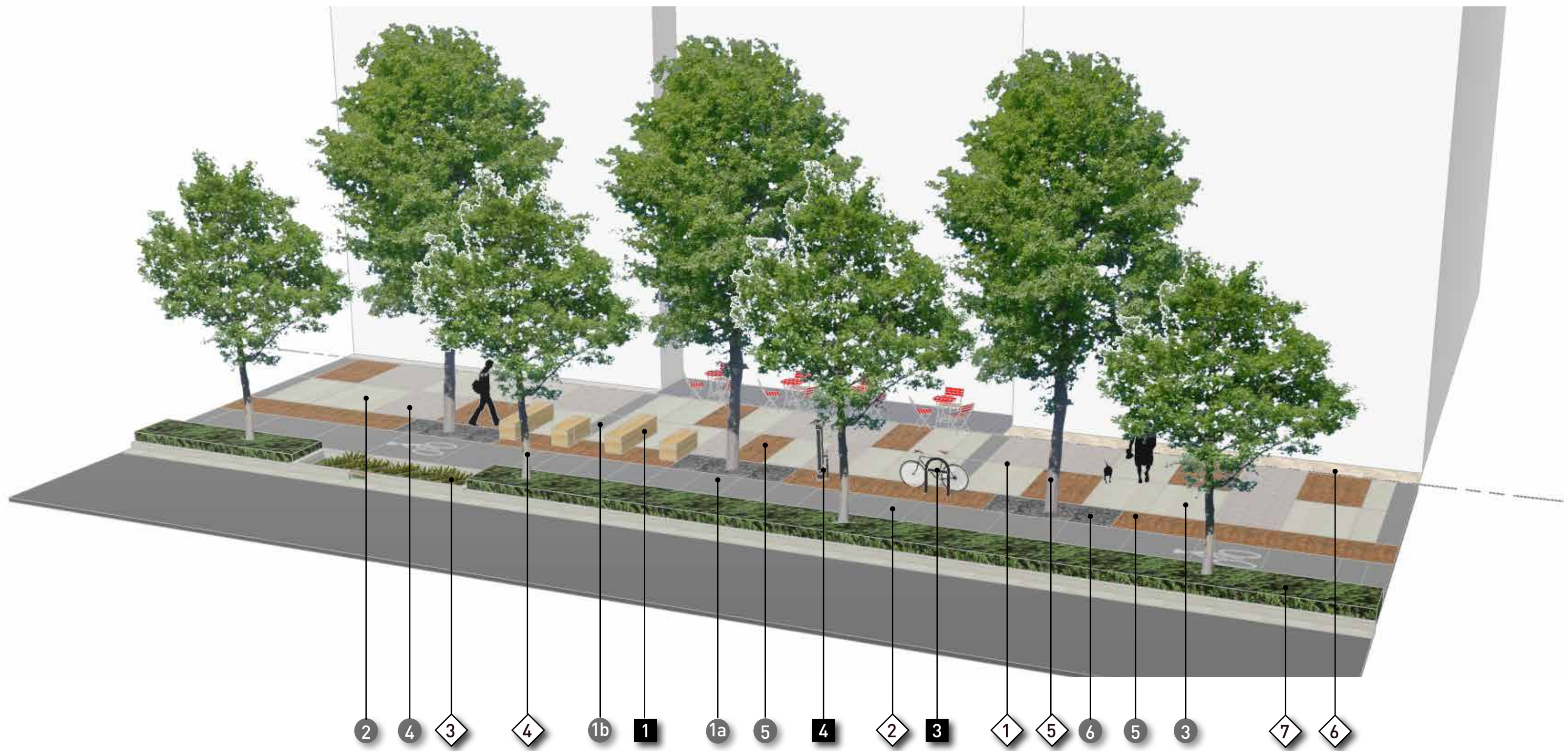


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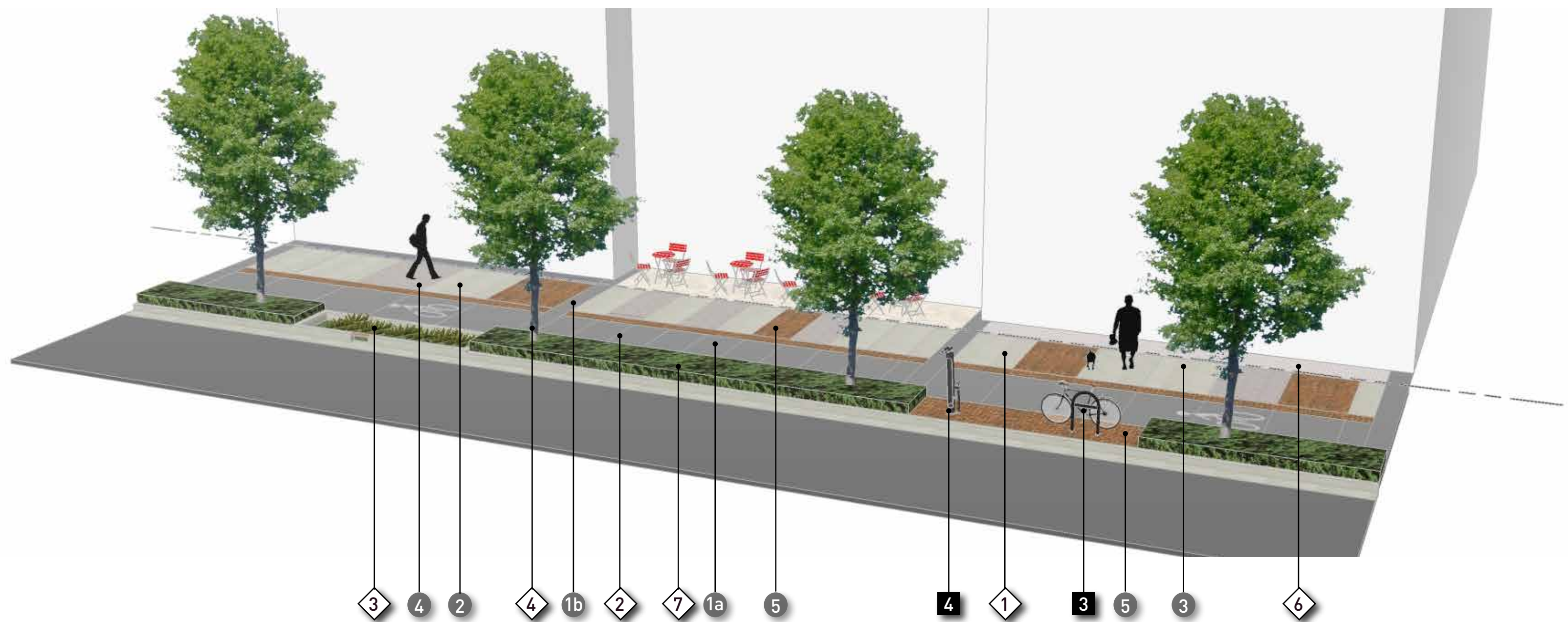
Broadway East (North sidewalk)



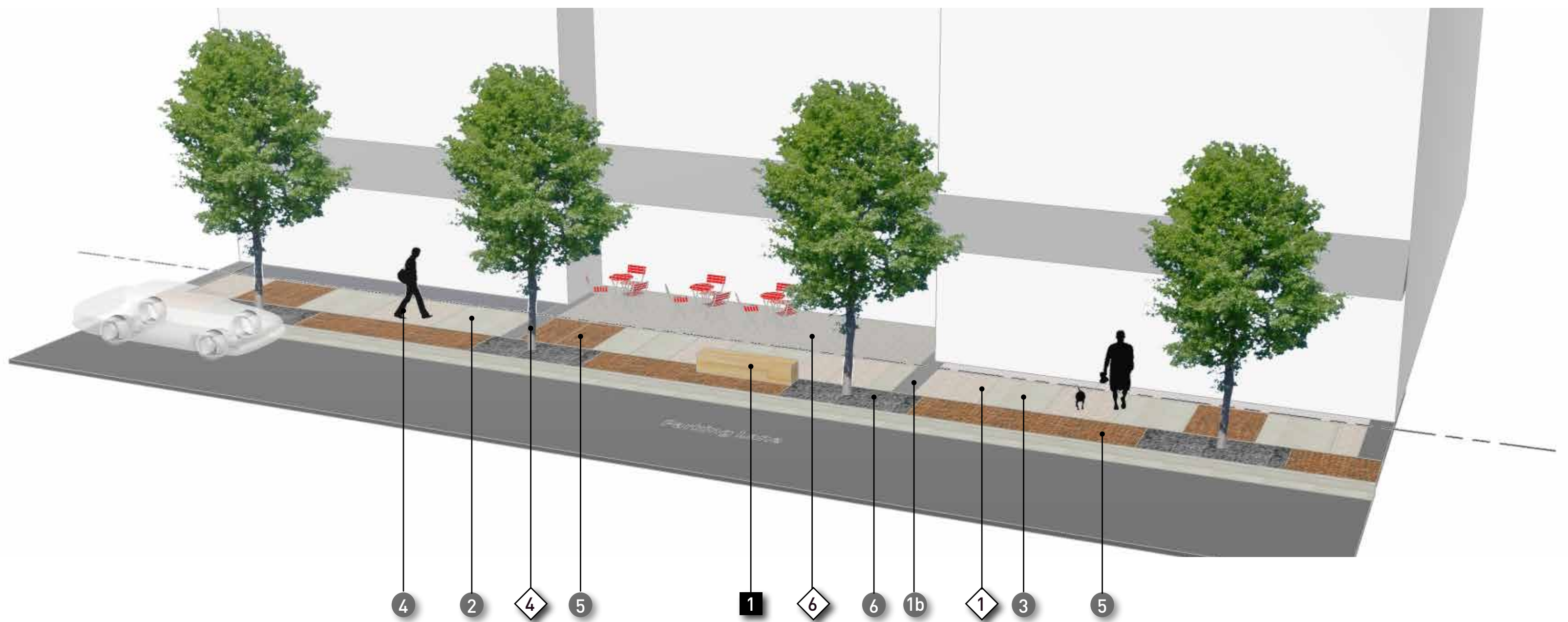
Broadway East (South sidewalk)



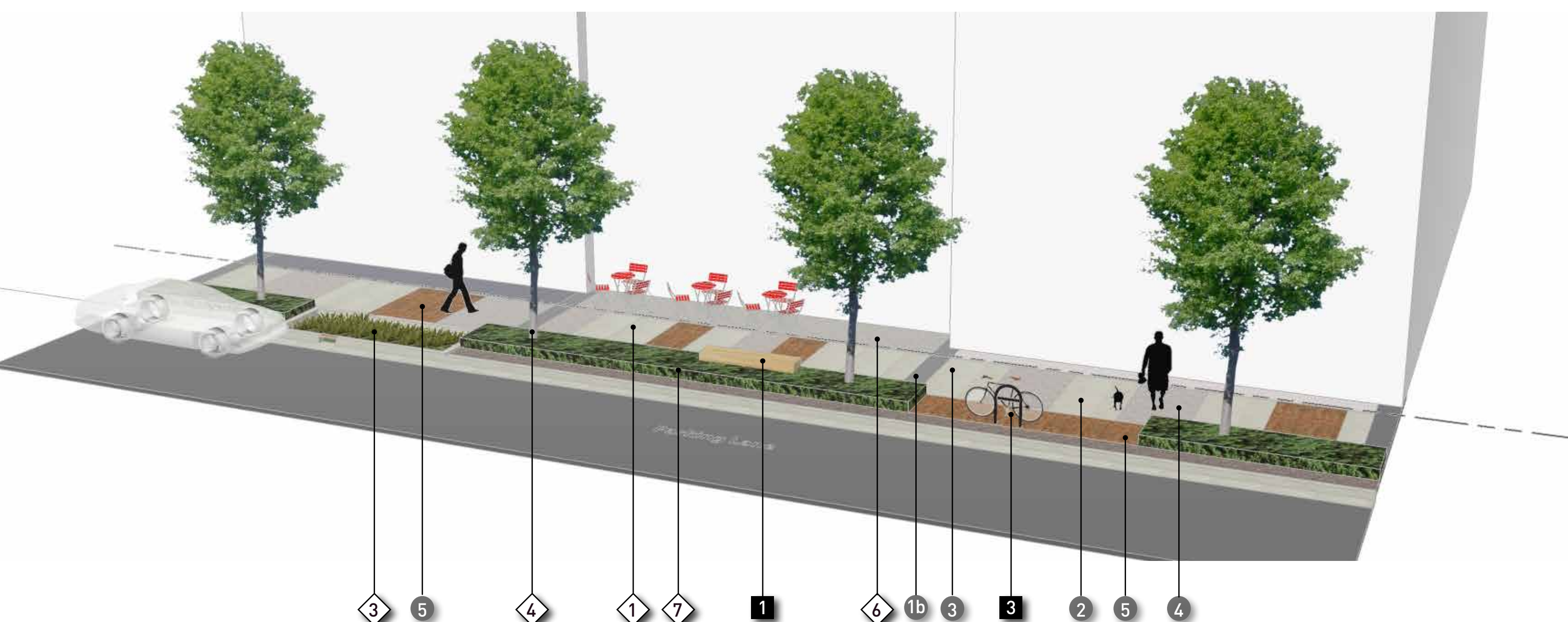
Main Street – 2nd to 8th Avenue



Main Street – Broadway to 16th Avenue



Kingsway



Enhanced boulevard (from laneway to Main Street or Broadway)



Legend

- 1 City Sidewalk**
The Public Realm Plan proposes a palette of 4 paving materials - cast in place concrete, coloured cast in place concrete, exposed aggregate and brick paving - to create a unique and dynamic sidewalk. The plan offers flexibility in the layout to accommodate different conditions and to maintain an eclectic style.
- 2 Separated Bike Lane**
Separated bike lane at sidewalk level. Coloured cast in place concrete.
- 3 Rain Garden Edge**
Applicable mostly at street corners and some mid block locations. Should be applied where significant volumes of street runoff can be captured in an expanded boulevard/rain garden.
- 4 Proposed Street Tree**
A major initiative of the Mount Pleasant Public Realm Plan is to plant large-scale trees in the boulevards to significantly enhance the character and environmental benefits to the neighborhood.
- 5 Existing Tree**
Preserve and protect all mature existing large-scale trees in the community as development occurs.
- 6 Storefront Sidewalk / Entries**
The Public Realm Plan encourages a variety of paving materials at the building stoops and entries that reflect the patterns of development over time and the uniqueness of each entry.
- 7 Planted Boulevard**
To emphasize the green edge treatment, the planted boulevards will improve separation between the sidewalk and vehicle traffic and provide a safer and more enjoyable pedestrian experience. Boulevards should be planted where there is no parking.
- 8 Mid-Block Crossing**
Painted mid-block crossings at laneway locations. These can be incorporated in community public art projects.

Material Palette

- 1 Coloured Concrete**
 - 1a Bike Lane:** Separated bike lane at sidewalk level.
 - 1b Concrete Band:** Historic pattern to reflect the traditional lot sizes in Mount Pleasant. "Most of Mount Pleasant was surveyed and developed using traditional surveying methods, based on survey by 66-foot chains that resulted in 33 foot lots and 66 foot roads."
- 2 Concrete**
Finish: Broom finish with saw cut control joints.
- 3 Concrete With Sandblasted Pattern**
Pattern Inspiration:
 - Broadway:** Art, First Nations, Community.
 - Main Street:** Brewery Creek, Art, Music, Pop Culture, Brewery.
 - Kingsway:** Indigenous Trail, First Nations, Aboriginal Art.
- 4 Exposed Aggregate Concrete**
Finish: Exposed aggregate with saw cut control joints.
- 5 Brick Pavers**
Historical Reference:
"A unique feature of the landmark buildings that made up most of Mount Pleasant's historic skyline was that many of them were built of yellow or brownish brick or stone, unlike the distinctive red brick structures of Gastown and Yaletown."
- 6 Crushed Stone Aggregate**
Crushed granite at base of street trees in high traffic pedestrian areas.

Furniture

- 1 Bench**
Custom and/or catalog benches with a creative, artsy character. Benches should not be standardized. May take on various forms, sizes and configurations. Seating elements to incorporate both metal and wood components in a durable fashion.
- 2 Garbage**
City of Vancouver Standard
Colour: Silver
- 3 Bike Rack**
City of Vancouver Standard.
Colour: Silver
- 4 Bike Pump**

Streetscape Materials are only one aspect of what encompasses the Public Realm. A diverse and non-standard palette of materials and street furnishings will assist in creating an eclectic Public Realm that reflects the neighborhood and community. The proposed materials need to be woven together with all the other recommendations to create a truly unique Mount Pleasant Public Realm.

Draft Public Realm Plan

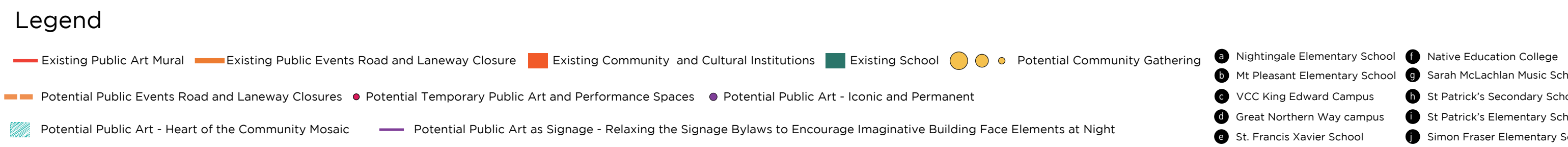
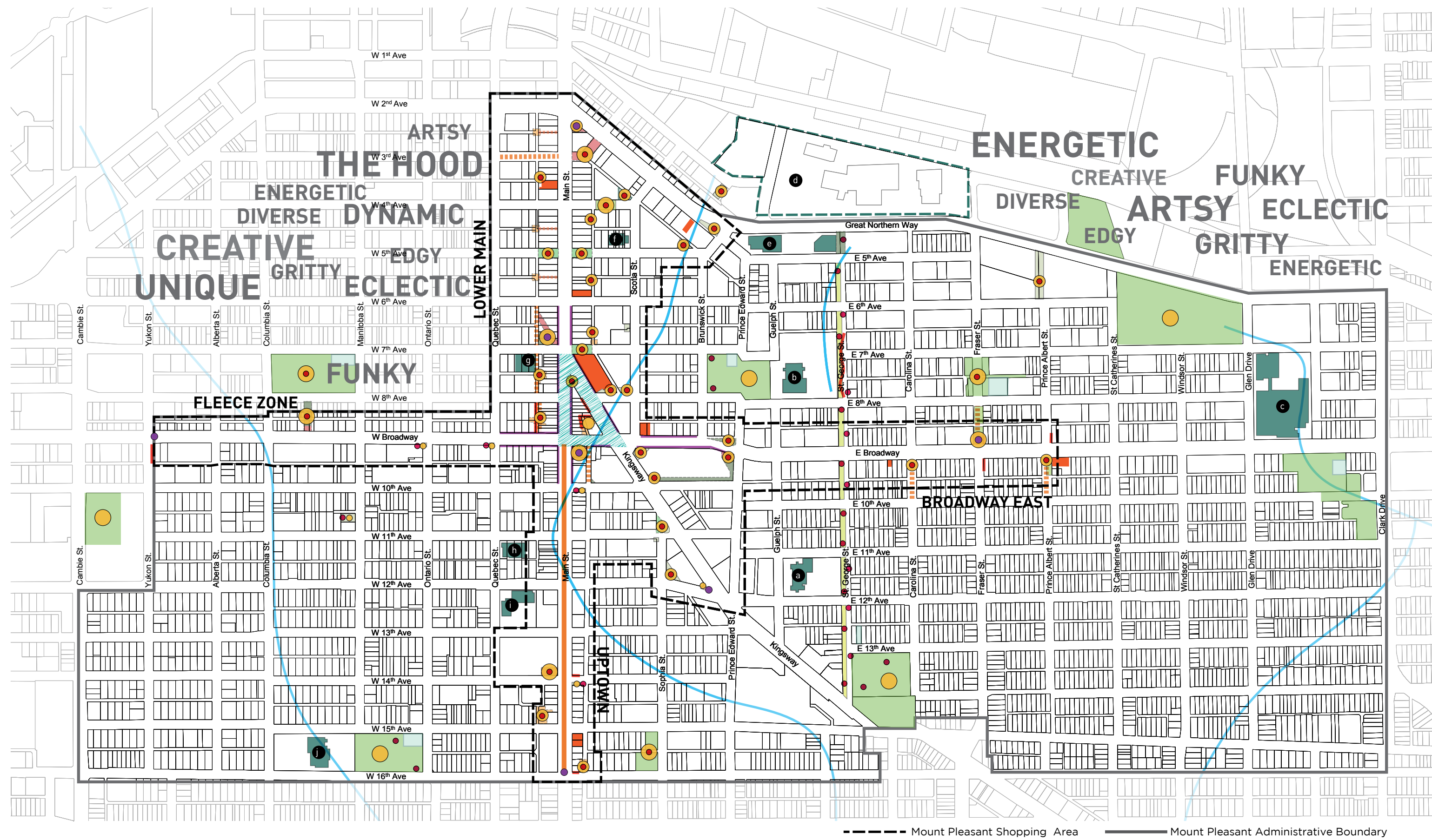
Public Art, Culture and Rich History



Mount Pleasant Community Plan Implementation: Open House June 2013

Public Art and Culture

Mount Pleasant has a strong culture that is artistic and creative. The community embraces its rich multi-cultural identity and has always reached out to contribute to the neighborhood character and grass root initiatives. The area is known for its artsy, edgy, and eclectic character creating the opportunities for public art that reflects the artisans, culture, and heritage boundless. The Public Realm must continue to embrace and enhance the wonderful culture, heritage, and art of the community. Public Art and Culture will be woven throughout the community and Public Realm to create one of the most eclectic and interesting neighborhoods in Vancouver.



Recommendations:

General:	Priority
1. Celebrate the First Nations history and culture throughout the community.	HIGH
2. Create public art in the community that reinforces and reflects the history, culture, and creek environment.	HIGH
3. Create a variety of permanent and iconic public art features throughout the neighbourhood to serve as major landmarks for the community.	MEDIUM
4. Encourage community and artist-driven temporary and performance spaces throughout the community.	HIGH
5. Celebrate the community and cultural institutions throughout the community by reinforcing public gathering spaces around and near them.	MEDIUM
6. Encourage and reinforce road and laneway closures for special events.	MEDIUM
7. Encourage signage to reinforce diverse, eclectic, and artistic character.	MEDIUM

Specific:	Priority
1. Create iconic public art feature at Main and 2nd Avenue to transition to Mount Pleasant.	MEDIUM
2. Create a feature 'heart of the community' public art mosaic in the street and sidewalk right of way.	MEDIUM
3. Reinforce the creek corridor with public art features along St. George railway.	HIGH
4. Create public art features on Broadway West that reinforce the commercial and industrial character of the neighbourhood.	LOW
5. Create public art features on Broadway East that reinforce the diverse community, First Nations, family, and artistic character of the neighbourhood.	MEDIUM
6. Create public art features from 2nd to 7th on Main Street that reinforce the cultural, brewery, industrial, and artistic character of the neighbourhood.	MEDIUM
7. Create public art features on Main from 8th to 16th that reinforce the historic, fashion, family, youth, and artistic character of the neighbourhood.	MEDIUM

Design Ideas and Opportunities:



Community Gathering - Movie in the Park



Special Event Road Closure



Potential Temporary Public Art and Performance



Community Mosaic



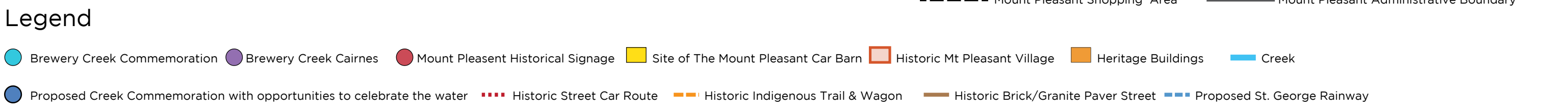
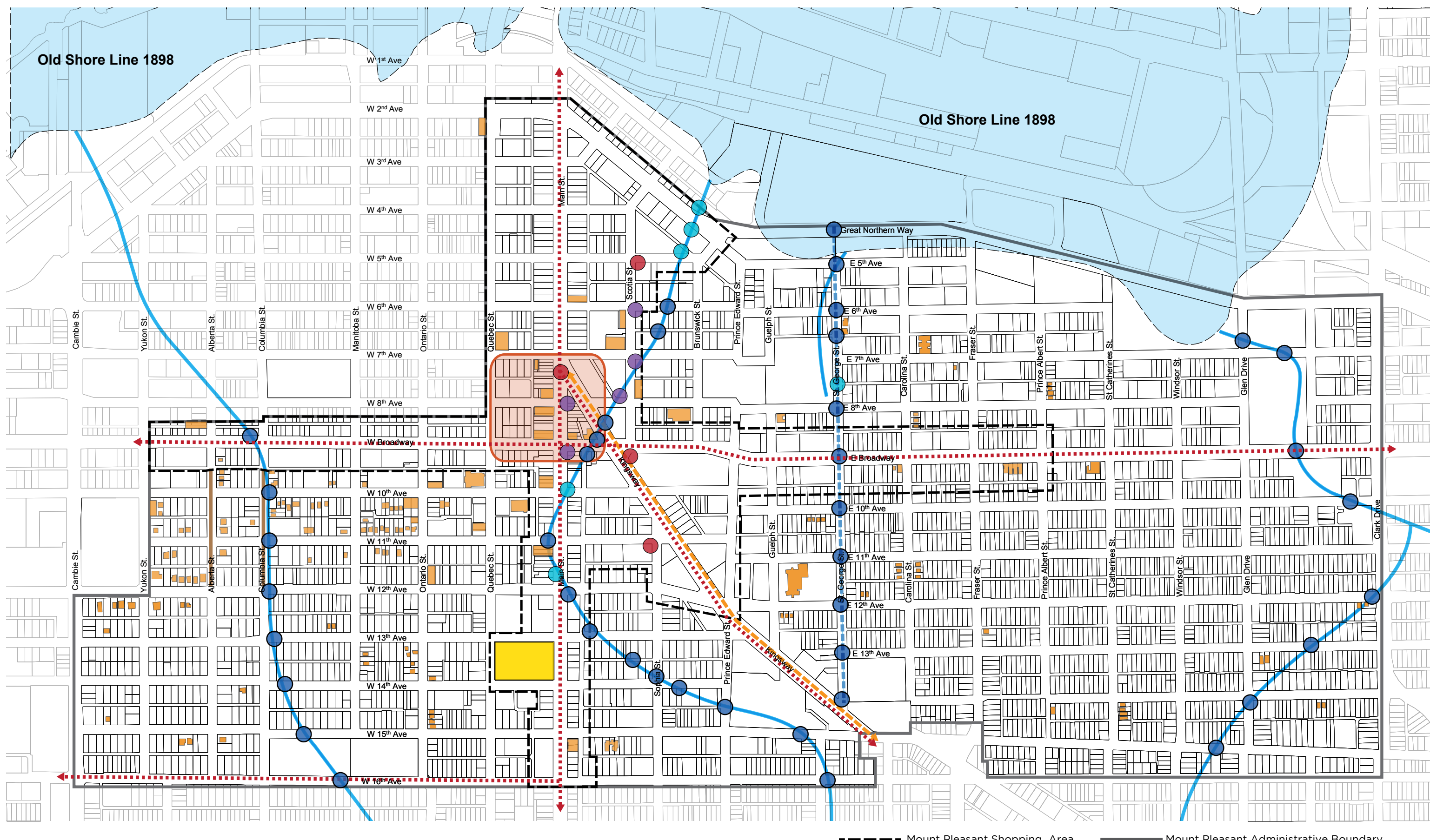
Public Art - Iconic and Permanent



Public Art as Signage

Celebrate the Rich History

The Mount Pleasant community and neighborhood is one of Vancouver's most historic and heritage-rich neighborhoods. All aspects of the Public Realm and interfaces with the existing and new developments should reflect and reinforce the heritage of the area. The neighborhood is also incredibly proud of their heritage and is one of the communities where the cross section of residents, merchants, visitors, is wide and all encompassing from young to elderly. The Public Realm is a wonderful place to reflect and celebrate the rich history of Mount Pleasant.

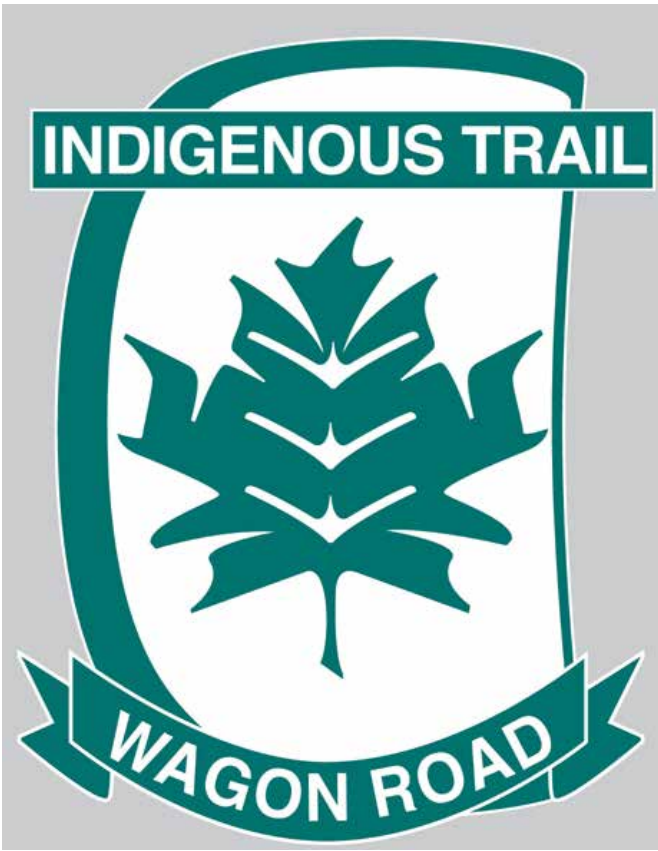


Recommendations:

General:	Priority
1. Celebrate the First Nations history and culture throughout the community.	HIGH
2. Reinforce sidewalk paving patterns to reflect small-scale lots and historic patterns.	MEDIUM
3. Celebrate and reinforce original creek environments with public art / rain gardens / water / interpretive panels.	MEDIUM
4. Reinforce and celebrate all of Mount Pleasant rich history throughout the public realm plan.	HIGH

Specific:	Priority
1. Celebrate Brewery Creek and the historical breweries with public art / paving / interpretive panels / special events / business.	HIGH
2. Celebrate the old Mount Pleasant village location with public art / paving / interpretive panels	MEDIUM
3. Celebrate and reinforce original streetcar locations in new and existing public realm with public art / paving / interpretive panels / lighting.	LOW
4. Celebrate the historic indigenous trail on Kingsway with animal patterns and First Nations art.	MEDIUM
5. Incorporate indigenous plant materials along the historic indigenous trail within the public realm and interface with private realm.	MEDIUM
6. Incorporate native plant materials at suitable locations where the creeks were located to reinforce the foreshore habitat.	MEDIUM

Historical References:



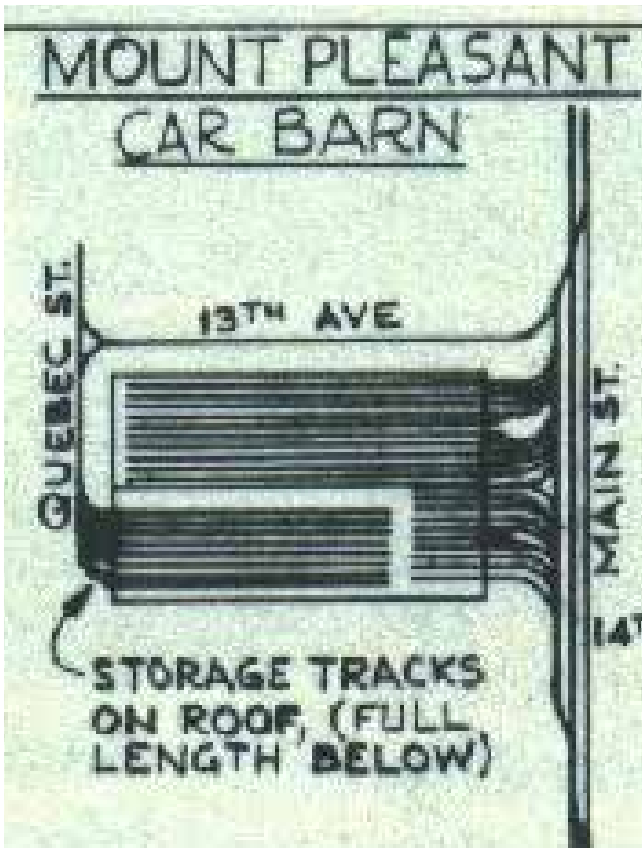
First Nations



Cedar Cottage Brewery



Creeks



Mount Pleasant Car Barn and Street Car



Heritage Hall



Welcome to Mount Pleasant Clock

Draft Public Realm Plan

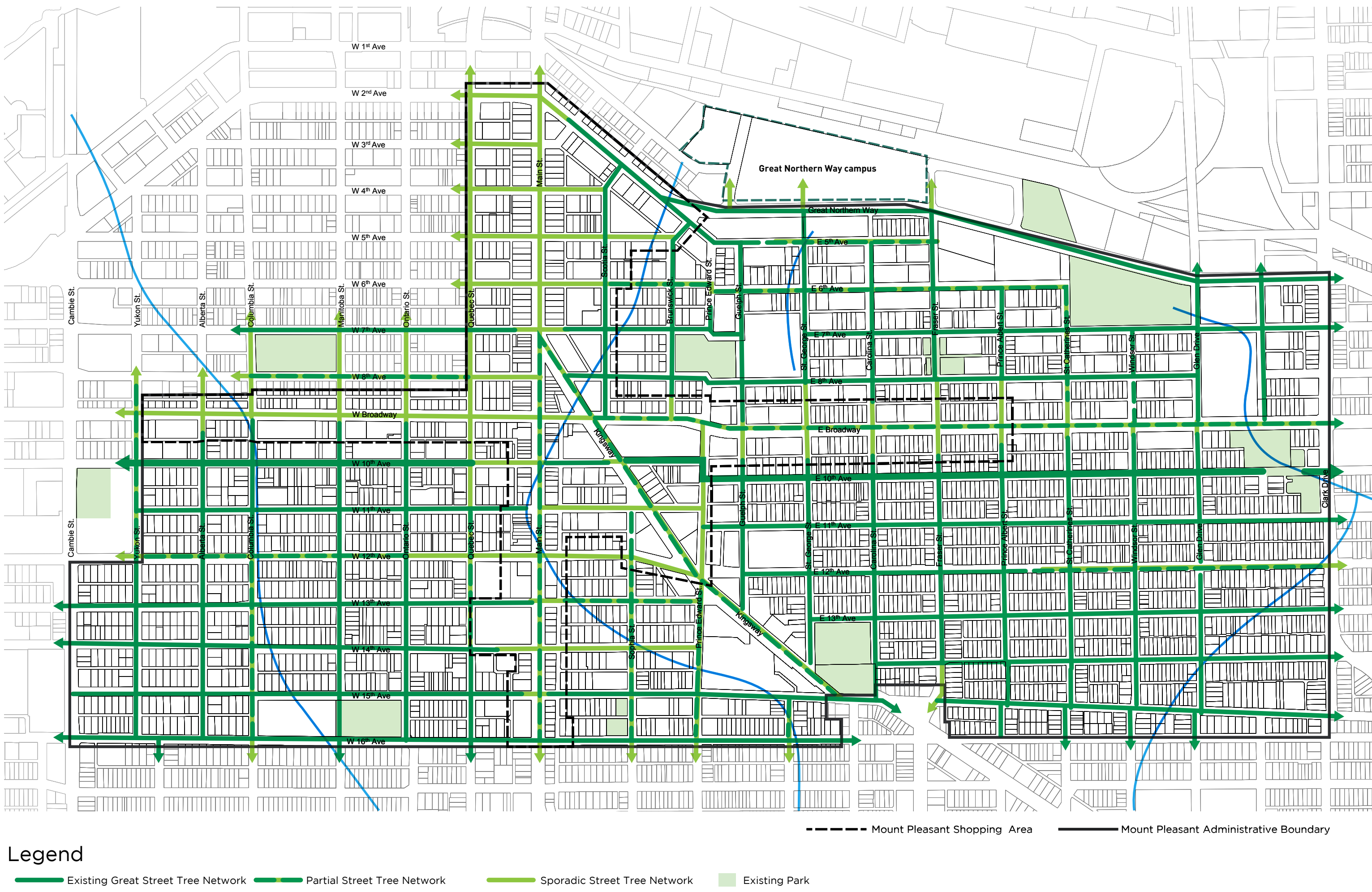
Green Canopy and Cycling Network



Mount Pleasant Community Plan Implementation: Open House June 2013

A Green Canopy

Mount Pleasant has some of the most beautifully canopied streets in Vancouver because the street trees are valued and loved. The tree canopy cover is the driving force behind the urban forest's ability to produce a multitude of benefits for the community. With more tree canopy coverage, green house carbon dioxide gasses and storm water runoff are reduced, energy savings increases, and climate control improves along with air and water quality. Furthermore, the wildlife habitat increases as does the real statute value and community vitality. Filling the gaps in the street trees and green coverage throughout the streets where there are gaps will provide benefits to the community. Recommendations will reinforce and improve this important environmental strategy of the Green Canopy.



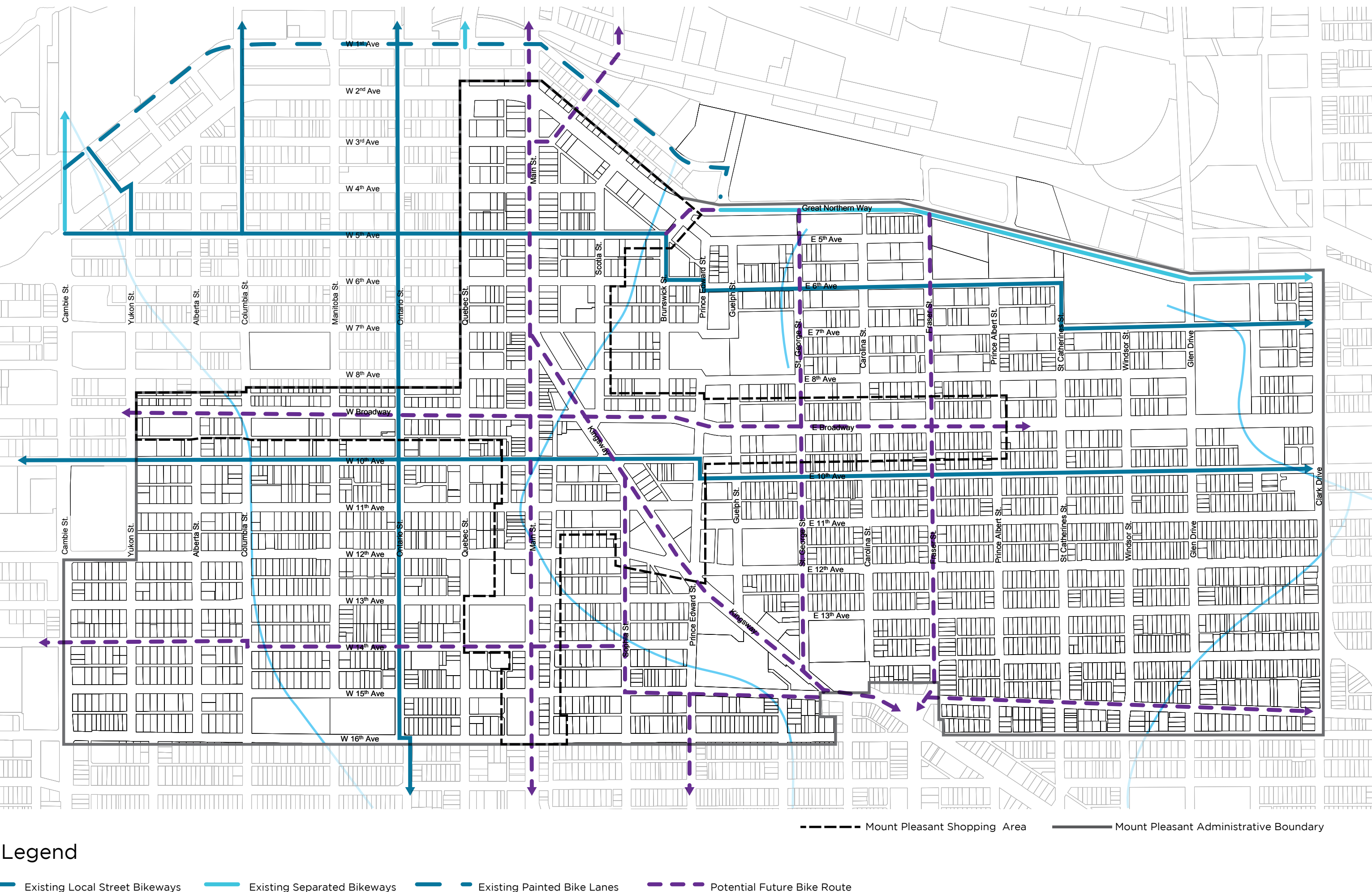
Recommendations:

General:	Priority
1. Celebrate the existing green canopy throughout the community.	HIGH
2. Seek to preserve and protect all mature existing large-scale trees in the community as development occurs.	HIGH
3. Reinforce the canopy gap within existing streets.	MEDIUM HIGH
4. Encourage the community to plant fruit trees within street right of way, lanes and mews at suitable location.	MEDIUM

Specific:	Priority
1. Plant large-scale street trees along Main Street, where achievable, throughout as new development occurs.	HIGH
2. Increase the Green Canopy within the new pocket parks, street-to-parks, plazas, and enhanced boulevards.	MEDIUM

Cycling Network

As part of Vancouver's Green City Action Plan and the 2040 Transportation Plan, increasing cycling and bike paths in the City is an important goal. Mount Pleasant is a community rich in cycling culture and the Public Realm Plan encourages a variety of bike routes throughout the community. The cycle network recommendation looks to embed cycling as a major mode of transportation through the community.



Recommendations:

General:	Priority
1. Upgrade and expand the cycling network to efficiently connect people to destinations.	MEDIUM HIGH
2. Improve and develop new bike routes that feel comfortable for people of all ages and abilities.	MEDIUM HIGH
3. Embrace the bike and provide ample bike parking and other supportive infrastructure where possible in shopping areas, at plazas, parks, laneways, etc.	MEDIUM
4. Provide safe, convenient connections between existing and future rapid transit stations and the rest of the cycling network.	MEDIUM HIGH
5. Support future public bike share in the community.	MEDIUM

Specific:	Priority
1. Explore opportunities to provide dedicated off-street cycling facilities on Main Street and Broadway as development occurs and streets are enhanced.	LOW
2. Provide bike repair stations where possible and appropriate.	MEDIUM

Street Tree Network



Street Tree Network



Street Tree Network, 5th Ave and Scotia Street



Street Tree Network, 10th Ave



Street Tree Network, Broadway and Prince Edward Street



Street Tree Network, Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House Broadway East and Prince Albert Street



Street Tree Network

Design Ideas and Opportunities:



Bikeway

Photo: Paul Krueger



Bike Rack



Separated Bike Lane



Bike Repair Station

Photo: Paul Krueger



Bike Lane



Public Bike Share System