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.
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. All these amenities within the Public Realm need to work together 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. The Parks and Plazas strategies suggest ways in which layers of these elements work together to complement Mount Pleasant.

### Design Ideas and Opportunities:

#### Pocket Park

- **Design Ideas**: Incorporate features for both programmed and passive activities for Jonathan Rodgers Park.
- **Priority**: LOW

#### Street to Park/Plaza

- **Design Ideas**: Incorporate mid-block connection of park and plaza from Broadway to Jonathan Rogers Park.
- **Priority**: LOW

#### Neighborhood Plaza

- **Design Ideas**: Secure and develop plaza and park at Kingsgate Mall through development.
- **Priority**: HIGH

#### Special Event on Lane

- **Design Ideas**: Enhance existing streetscape and plaza at corner of Kingsway and 12th Avenue.
- **Priority**: MEDIUM
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.

Recommendations:

**General:**
1. Create Main Street lane route.
2. Create Broadway lane route.
3. Improve legibility of lanes by creating a diverse pattern where applicable.
4. Where applicable, incorporate rain gardens to address storm water on lower Main Street.
5. Provide mid-block pedestrian crossing along Main at strategic blocks to increase the walkability.
6. Enhance streetscape (sidewalks/boulevards) between Main and Broadway at strategic blocks to increase walkability.
7. Provide opportunities for alternate paving treatment and permeable materials in lanes.
8. Improve connectivity with Great Northern Way Campus.
9. Enhance streetscape (sidewalks/boulevards) between Broadway and laneways.
10. Enhance streetscape (sidewalks/boulevards) between Main and laneways.

**Specific:**
1. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
2. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
3. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
4. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
5. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
6. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
7. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
8. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
9. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.
10. Enhance boulevard at Fraser and East Broadway North side.

**Design Ideas and Opportunities:**

**Laneway Activation**

**Green Laneway**

**Mid-Block Crossing**

**Enhanced Boulevard**

**Enhanced Streetscape**
Enhanced Pedestrian Network

**Legend**

- **City Sidewalk**
  - The pedestrian plan proposes a palette of paving materials for sidewalk use. The palette is designed to accommodate different conditions and to maintain an eclectic style.

- **Separated Bike Lane**
  - Separated bike lanes are not shown on the map. Coloured cast in place concrete.

- **Rain Garden Edge**
  - Applicable only to street corners and some mid-block locations. This will be applied where significant volumes of street runoff can be captured in an expanded boulevard or rain garden.

- **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.

- **Existing Tree**
  - Trees and other existing large-scale trees in the community as development occurs.

- **Storefront Sidewalk / Entries**
  - The Public Realm Plan encourages the use of paving materials at the building edges and entries that reflect the patterns of development from the past and the character of each entry.

- **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.

- **Mid-Block Crossing**
  - Painted mid-block crossings at laneway locations. These can be incorporated in community public art projects.

**Material Palette**

1. **Coloured Concrete**
   - Finish: Broom finish with saw cut control joints.

2. **Concrete With Sandblasted Pattern**
   - Finish: Exposed aggregate with saw cut control joints.

3. **Exposed Aggregate**
   - Finish: Exposed aggregate with saw cut control joints.

4. **Brick Pavers**

5. **Crushed Stone Aggregate**

6. **Crushed granite aggregate, crushed stone and other materials**

**Furniture**

1. **Bench**
   - Custom and/or catalog materials with a creative, artsy character. May include metal and wood elements to incorporate art and history into a durable finish.

2. **Garbage**
   - City of Vancouver Standard Garbage Bin

3. **Bike Rack**
   - City of Vancouver Standard Bike Rack

4. **Bike Pump**
   - City of Vancouver Standard Bike Pump

**Pattern Inspiration**

1. **Pattern Inspiration**
   - Broadway: Art, First Nations, Broadway
   - Main Street: Community.

**Material Reference**

1. **Material Reference**
   - A unique feature of the street is the use of crushed granite aggregate, crushed stone and other materials.

**Pattern Inspiration**

1. **Pattern Inspiration**
   - Broadway: Art, First Nations, Broadway

**Process Reference**

1. **Process Reference**
   - “A unique feature of the street is the use of crushed granite aggregate, crushed stone and other materials.”

**Street Patterns**

1. **Street Patterns**
   - 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.
Public Art, Culture and Rich History

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 green space initiatives. The area is known for its artsy, edgy, and eclectic character creating the opportunities for public art that reflects the arts, culture, and heritage boundaries. 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.

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 infrastructure with the existing and new developments should reflect and reinforce the heritage of the area. The neighborhood is also immediately 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:
1. Celebrate the First Nations’ history and culture throughout the community.
2. Create public art in the community that reinforces and reflects the history, culture, and area environment.

Specific:
1. Create historic art features on Broadway West that reinforce the commercial and industrial character of the neighborhood.
2. Celebrate the old Mount Pleasant village location with public art / paving / interpretive panels.

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

Historical References:

First Nations
Cedar Cottage Brewery
Mount Pleasant Car Barn and Street Car
Heritage Hall
Welcome to Mount Pleasant Clock
**Green Canopy and Cycling Network**

**A Green Canopy**

Mount Pleasant has some of the most beautiful urban streets in Vancouver because the streets 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 gases and storm water runoff are reduced, energy savings increase, and climate control improves along with air and water quality. Furthermore, the wildlife habitat increases as does the real estate 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.

**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:**

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

**Specific:**

1. Plant large-scale street trees along Main Street, where achievable, throughout as new development occurs. **Priority: HIGH**
2. Increase the Green Canopy within the new pocket parks, street-side parks, plazas, and enhanced boulevards. **Priority: MEDIUM**
3. Provide bike repair stations where possible and appropriate. **Priority: MEDIUM**

**Design Ideas and Opportunities:**

- Bikeway
- Bike Rack
- Separated Bike Lane
- Bike Repair Station
- Bike Lane
- Public Bike Share System