Arbutus Greenway:  
A rails to trail project enabling healthier urban living
Arbutus Greenway - Context

Arbutus Greenway
approx 9 km long

Stanley Park
Downtown
English Bay
Granville Island
Queen Elizabeth Park
Fraser River

Context
History of the Corridor

1902 @ W49th

1950’s @ W41st

1990’s @ W16th
Constructing a Temporary Path
Separate Paths
Benches
Community Gardens
Art Installations
Temporary Washrooms
Temporary Murals
Solar Lighting Trial
Pollinator Gardens
Temporary Path Features
Life along a Temporary Path
Beyond Active Transportation

Health & Well-being
Accessibility
Recreation
Safe Spaces
Access to Nature
Environment
Community Building
Arbutus Greenway Design Vision
Arbutus Greenway Design Vision

Zone 1: Harvest Table
W 6th Ave at Fir St ↔ W Broadway

Zone 2: Electric Alley
W Broadway ↔ W 16th Ave

Zone 3: The Ridge
W 16th Ave ↔ W King Edward Ave

Zone 4: Woodland Bend
W King Edward Ave ↔ W 37th Ave
Zone 5: Kerrydale Pass

Zone 6: Garden Path

Zone 7: Marpole Meander

Zone 8: The Lookout

W 37th Ave ↔ W 49th Ave

W 49th Ave ↔ W 57th Ave

W 57th Ave ↔ SW Marine Dr

SW Marine Dr ↔ Milton St
Arbutus Greenway Design Vision

Initial transportation requirements incl. separate walking & cycling pathways and reserve space for future streetcar
Arbutus Greenway Design Considerations

- Safe Intersections
- Green Infrastructure
- Public Art
- Inclusive Design
- Urban Ecology
- Wayfinding
- Dark Sky Lighting
- Public Realm
Reconciliation with First Nations
### Public Feedback

Overall, what do you think of the proposed design (for each zone)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Really like it</th>
<th>Like it</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Dislike it</th>
<th>Really dislike it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zone 1</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone 2</td>
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<td>33%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 3</td>
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<td>39%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 4</td>
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<td>35%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Zone 5</td>
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<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 6</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 7</td>
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<td>35%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zone 8</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

70% either ‘Like’ or ‘Really Like’ the proposed design for the permanent greenway.
Preliminary Findings

Goal: Understand who is using the temporary greenway, patterns of use (purpose, mode, frequency and duration of trips) over next 5 years

University of British Columbia Research

Purpose of Greenway Trips

- Recreation & Transportation: 43%
- Transportation Only: 18%
- Recreation Only: 39%

Gender Identity

- 45% women
- 55% men

3,200 people counted in 2018 over 18 hr period

2017
2018
+35%

- 50% live within 1 km of greenway
- 24% users over the age of 60

+20% increase over 2017
Longitudinal study examining correlation between Moderate to Vigorous Physical Activity (MVPA) and proximity to a greenway

• Comox Greenway in Vancouver (±2 km away from Arbutus Greenway)
• 2 year study with pre and post greenway analysis

Conclusions

• Urban greenways increase MVPA and decrease sedentary behavior for those living within 300 m of greenway
• MVPA benefit greatest for residents living within 100m of greenway

• Reducing sedentary behavior greatest for those living within 300m of the greenway
• Active Transportation facilities including greenways increase physical activity & reduce sedentary behavior

L. Frank et al in 2019 Preventive Medicine
‘Causal evaluation of urban greenway retrofit: A longitudinal study on physical activity and sedentary behavior’
## Broader Health Benefits

For people living near 6 or more Parks & Greenways compared to those living near 0 to 1 Parks & Greenways

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>More likely to walk for leisure or recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>More likely to meet the weekly recommended level of physical activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>More likely to have a strong sense of community belonging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Less likely to have stressful days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>Less likely to have heart disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Less likely to have diabetes, diabetes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43%</td>
<td>Less likely to experience obesity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The Arbutus Greenway is 16 hectares and connects 6 parks and eventually waterfront parks and paths in the north and south.
Believe in your conviction - safety and inclusivity are paramount and non-negotiable.

Build interest in the place – Plan activities that encourage people to visit the site as soon as possible, even before the design is underway or complete.

Dream big and persevere - Listen to all voices even opposing ones but be wary of Bananas.

Be patient.