

GLOSSARY

2S/LGBTQQIA+	Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual Plus
Accessible transportation system	A transportation system that can be easily used by people with disabilities or people facing other barriers.
Active travel	Active travel refers to walking, rolling or biking to get around. Any mode of travel where people are moving themselves, sometimes with the help of a small mobility device.
Amenities	Amenities includes a range of places and facilities such as libraries, recreation centres, parks, plazas, day care facilities, corner stores, public wifi, schools and bike share facilities. Amenities make living in the city easier and more enjoyable.
Aquifer	A layer of permeable material below ground where groundwater can be transmitted and stored.
Arts	A wide range of creative endeavors and disciplines, such as visual, literary or performing arts, that express culture and heritage. In Indigenous worldviews, art is not separate from everyday life and work. Stories, agreements, and laws can be carried through songs, dances, carvings, regalia, and weavings.
Assets	A thing or quality that is highly valued or useful. Includes natural assets, neighbourhood assets, cultural assets etc.
Biodiversity	The richness of plant and animal species, including their genetic diversity, the ecosystems they inhabit, and the ecological processes that sustain them.
Blue green network	Park-like streets that manage water and provide ecosystem services.
Business Improvement Area (BIA)	BIAs are specially funded business districts, managed by non-profit groups of property owners and business tenants whose goal is to promote and improve their business district.
Car-light or car-free	Spaces - often a series of plazas or streets - where vehicles are not permitted / are only allowed for a limited time / only certain vehicles are allowed (e.g. delivery trucks or local residents).
Cascadia region	Cross-border bioregion in the Greater Pacific Northwest connecting Portland, Oregon, Seattle, Washington, and Vancouver.
Circular economy	An economic model that extends the life cycle of products. Throughout this process, waste is eliminated through the reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling of materials to limit inefficiencies and close gaps within the system. It aims to effectively design out waste.
Climate change adaptation	The process of adjusting to current or expected climate change and its effects.
Climate change mitigation	Responding to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Colonization	A process by which settlers from Western Europe sought to replace Indigenous laws and take Indigenous land, for the purpose of building wealth. This process used force to intimidate, manipulate and physically remove Indigenous peoples from their land and extinguish their cultures.

Combined sewer / Combined sewer overflow	A combined sewer is a system in which rainwater and sanitary sewage water is collected in the same system. Combined sewer overflow describes an event when the sewer is overcapacity and releases a mixture of rainwater and sewage into receiving waters.
Community Centre Association (CCA)	Community-based society incorporated under the Societies Act. Plays an important role in contributing to the success of the community centre network, including by delivering programming and services.
Community third spaces	Community third spaces include bars, coffee shops and other informal public gathering spaces where people spend time between home (“first place”) and work (“second” place). The term was coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg.
Complete neighbourhoods	Complete neighbourhoods include all of the resources to meet most residents’ daily needs – shops, restaurants, flexible work spaces, internet, community services, housing, transit, schools, parks and other features. These highly walkable neighbourhoods support better livability – they have less reliance on cars, support better physical health and provide a range of housing options for a diverse mix of people. These neighbourhoods also provide more opportunities for social interaction as people meet and connect on the street, at their favourite coffee shop, local playground and during everyday activities like walking to get groceries.
Connectivity	Refers to how well people, places or ecosystems are connected within a region, city or neighbourhood.
Cultural Redress Areas	These are Ethno-cultural Community Areas where the City has issued recognition or formal apology with strategic, financial, and/or policy commitments to recognize and address historic and contemporary forms of legislative and municipal discrimination, erasure, and displacement. As of 2022, these areas include Chinatown, Hogan’s Alley, Punjabi Market, and Paueru-gai.
Culture	A set of shared attitudes, values, and practices that define people and places, reflecting the lands, waters, heritages, and histories of the place. Culture includes artistic and creative activity, and the goods and services produced by it.
Daily needs	Daily needs refers to resources that people typically need access to more than once a week. Examples include shops, restaurants, work spaces, internet, community services, housing, transit, schools and parks.



Sunset Park bike path (Source: Shannon Mendes)



Art by Indigenous youth, 63rd Avenue at Yukon Street green rainwater infrastructure plaza (Source: Shannon Mendes)

Decolonization	Decolonization is the process of surfacing the colonial assumptions, narratives and beliefs that individuals hold and that are embedded in the City's ways of operating, and beginning to dismantle and reshape these structures.
Development Cost Levies (DCLs)	DCLs are paid by property developers based on square footage of most new developments. DCLs are an important source of revenue for City facilities such as parks, childcare facilities, social housing and engineering infrastructure.
Drainage system	A system of gutters, pipes, drains or catch basins, and green rainwater infrastructure that together manage urban rainwater runoff.
Ecological network	The interconnected system of natural spaces across the city, composed of both terrestrial and marine areas. Large natural spaces, called hubs, are the critical part of the ecological network.
Ecosystem services	The benefits living things obtain from ecosystems. These include food and water, flood and disease control, spiritual and recreational benefits, and supporting services that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.
Equity-denied groups	Equity-denied groups are those who have been excluded from the design of our current societal systems, and whom as a result face marginalization or discrimination. These groups include: people who identify as Indigenous, Black people and people of African descent; people of colour and racialized people; people with disabilities; people who live with mental health challenges; deaf and hard of hearing people; 2S/LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse people; people with low incomes; refugees, newcomers, and undocumented people; minority language communities; women and girls; or youth and seniors. Also referred to in the Plan as equity-denied communities.
Ethno-cultural Community Areas	Areas where there is a concentration of cultural heritage assets, services, and/or businesses for or from specific racialized ethnic communities (e.g. Black and African descent communities, Punjabi, Chinese, or Vietnamese) or white ethnic communities (e.g. Greek, Italian, or Ukrainian).
Green Rainwater Infrastructure (GRI)	Green Rainwater Infrastructure uses soils, plants, trees and built structures such as blue-green roofs, swales, rainwater tree trenches and rain gardens to capture, store and clean rainwater before being absorbed in the ground or returning it to our waterways and atmosphere. GRI can also include the harvest and reuse of rainwater.
Greenhouse gases (GHGs)	Gases such as carbon dioxide and methane, that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere.
Greenway	Greenways are high quality active transportation, recreation and public space corridors that support walking, biking and rolling for people of all ages and abilities and identities. They form a city-wide network across neighbourhoods and provide access to key destinations such as parks, schools and community spaces.
Groundwater	Water occurring below the surface of the ground within voids in a rock or soil matrix.
Habitat	The area or type of environment in which a species of plant or animal lives such as a woodpecker in a forested habitat or tidepool sculpin in an intertidal marine habitat.
Heritage / Cultural heritage	Refers to tangible heritage (physical artifacts like buildings, monuments, and collections of objects, or preserving and restoring buildings and monuments) and intangible or living heritage (such as oral traditions, performing arts, rituals, celebrations, practices that express culture inherited from ancestors and passed on to descendants).
IBPOC	IBPoC is a contemporary term that refers to Indigenous, Black and People of Colour.

Incubator space	Workspace created to offer start-ups and new ventures access to the resources they need under one roof (for example a desk or office, administrative support, office equipment, mentors etc.). Most incubators are created as temporary launching pads for new businesses, with the expectation that participants will eventually graduate and move out.
Infiltration	The ground's ability to allow water movement into and through the soil. For example by absorbing and holding water to support plant life.
Inter-jurisdictional	Areas overseen by two or more governmental bodies. For example, Still Creek spreads between the City of Vancouver and the City of Burnaby, therefore the watershed system is inter-jurisdictional.
Intersectionality	Intersectionality is a framework that explores how different forms of systemic oppression, like racism, classism and sexism, intersect and create compounding, negative effects.
Land-based cultural practices	An Indigenous worldview that recognizes the deep physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual connection that people, knowledge, and values have to the land and the environment. It recognizes that every place has its own unique environmental conditions that need to be respected and considered holistically in every land management decision.
Livability	Livability refers to how well a place is able to meet the needs of those living there and support quality of life, both in the short- and long-term.
Livelihoods spectrum / continuum	Refers to the diverse range of income-generating and employment opportunities residents engage in to create their livelihoods, rather than taking a view of the economy that focuses only on 'traditional' forms of employment and entrepreneurship.
Living-wage	Hourly rate required for two working adults to meet the basic needs of a family of four based on the regional cost of living (calculated annually by the Living Wage for Families Campaign). Includes direct wages and the value of non-mandatory benefits, such as paid sick leave, and extended health benefits.
Market rental	Market rental housing refers to purpose-built rental housing or secondary rental housing (such as a basement suite), rented in the private market at market rents.
Micro-mobility	Small, light devices that typically move a single person (or an adult and 1-2 children). They include bikes, e-bikes, trikes, skateboards, cargo bikes, e-scooters, hoverboards, electric skateboards and many other devices. (Devices like wheelchairs, mobility scooters or walkers may be included, but these are often considered mobility aids as they are usually required by their users.)
Missing Middle housing	Missing Middle refers to housing forms such as townhouses, multi-plexes and low-rise apartments up to 6-storeys. This form of housing increases housing choice, including ownership and rental options.
Mixed-use	Refers to two or more types of activities in one place, such as housing, shops, offices, childcare or cultural venues. The term mixed-use can be applied to a single building (for example an apartment building with a shop on the ground floor) or to larger areas (such as a mixed-use block with different activities located next to each other).
Multiplex housing	Multiplex housing is a building, typically on one lot, that includes three or more dwelling units, each with separate entrances. Because the cost of the land is shared over more units and the multiplex units are smaller, they provide homes that cost less than a detached house or duplex.

Natural area	Large and small patches of the urban landscape which support nature such as forests, wetlands, and shorelines, but also including green roofs, constructed wetlands, and rain gardens.
Nature-based solutions	Design solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective and simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits, and help build resilience.
Negative emissions	Negative emissions result from the removal (sequestration) of more greenhouse gases than are emitted, resulting in a net reduction in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
Neighbourhood centres	Neighbourhood Centres come in many different shapes and sizes, and are oriented around local shopping streets where people come together to shop, work, connect with friends, and access their daily needs.
Equity-denied groups	Equity-denied groups are those who have been excluded from the design of our current societal systems, and whom as a result face marginalization or discrimination. These groups include: people who identify as Indigenous, Black people and people of African descent; people of colour and racialized people; people with disabilities; people who live with mental health challenges; deaf and hard of hearing people; 2S/LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse people; people with low incomes; refugees, newcomers, and undocumented people; minority language communities; women and girls; or youth and seniors. Also referred to in the Plan as equity-denied communities.
Non-profit organization (NPO)	The term 'non-profit organization' (NPO) is used to distinguish this business sector from the 'for-profit' business sector. NPOs may have paid staff and engage in activities that result in income or profit, but by definition, they cannot pass those profits on to directors or members of the organization.
One Water	Refers to a planning approach adopted by the City. The approach values all forms of water, considers the entire urban water cycle and integrates all aspects of water management and infrastructure with nature.
Pollinators	Species such as bees and butterflies, which pollinate our plants, crops, fruit trees and more.
Public realm	Public realm has a broader meaning than “public space”, as it also includes privately owned public spaces, and the building façades, storefronts, displays, and patios that shape the experience of public spaces. It also incorporates streetscape elements such as street furniture, lighting, public art and distinctive sidewalk treatments. Generally everything that can be seen and experienced at pedestrian eye level. The sum of these parts contributes to the public realm, and the overall experience and attractiveness of a public space.
Public right-of-way	Roads, streets, lanes, boulevards, and sidewalks that are managed and or/owned by a government.
Public space	Public Spaces are all places publicly owned or in public use, accessible and enjoyable by all, including parks, playgrounds, plazas, mini-parks, parklets, streets, sidewalks, laneways, pathways, and the seawall. To a limited extent, government buildings which are open to the public, such as public libraries are public spaces, although they tend to have restricted areas and greater limits upon use.

Rapid transit	High capacity, fast and frequent transit that takes priority over general traffic. Existing and proposed rapid transit routes include the Expo, Canada and Millennium lines, Hastings, Broadway, 41st Avenue and 49th Avenue.
Receiving waters	Larger bodies of water at the bottom of a watershed into which smaller waterbodies flow. Local receiving waters include Burrard Inlet, the Fraser River, False Creek, English Bay and the Salish Sea.
Reconciliation	Building respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This includes recognition of Indigenous rights and titles, as well as restitution and redress for colonial harms.
Redress	Redress means to repair the harms of systemic exclusion and discrimination or historic wrong.
Resilience	Resilience is the ability of individuals, communities, organizations, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and thrive in the face of shocks (acute disruptions like earthquakes or heat waves) and address stresses (chronic issues like affordability and social isolation).
Restorative natural area	A natural or naturalized area that is, as much as possible, removed from road noise, traffic, and other interventions. It is relatively quiet and contains natural elements like native plants and water features.
Rolling	A mode of transportation other than cycling or walking, which includes mobility aids like wheelchairs, walkers or strollers, and other types of newer mobility devices such as e-scooters.
Secured Rental Policy (SRP)	The Secured Rental Policy encourages the construction of new purpose-built rental housing to help create more housing options for renters in Vancouver.
Self-Determination	The right and ability for Indigenous communities and Nations to freely pursue their political, social, economic and cultural paths into the future.
Sequester	Capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through mechanical, chemical or biological means.
Shared district parking	Parking that is provided in a single location for a block, neighbourhood or commercial area rather than parking provided specifically to support a particular building or land use.
Shared mobility	Transportation vehicles and services shared by members, for example bike share (Mobi) or car share (EVO or Modo) services.
Single-detached house	A free-standing residential building which may or may not contain a suite.
Social housing	Social housing is rental housing in which: at least 30% of the dwelling units are occupied by households with incomes below housing income limits, as set out in the "Housing Income Limits" table published by BC Housing; it is owned by a non-profit corporation, a non-profit co-operative association, or by or on behalf of the City, the Province of British Columbia, or Canada; and it is secured by a housing agreement or other legal commitment. (As defined in City of Vancouver Zoning & Development By-law)
Special Market Area	Commercial area of particular importance to an ethno-cultural community (e.g. Punjabi Market). See also 'Ethno-cultural Community Areas'

Statement of Cultural Significance	A statement that outlines the key aspects of a place and why it is culturally significant, extending beyond the physical characteristics.
Stormwater	Rainwater which has landed in an urban area and begun to flow across hard surface, usually quite polluted.
Sustainable travel	Walking, cycling, rolling, taking transit, and sometimes, using a low- or zero-emission vehicle.
Systemic barriers	Systemic barriers are policies, practices or procedures that result in some people receiving unequal access or exclusion
Transportation hub	A location where several modes of transportation are available for users. For example a SkyTrain station adjacent to a bus stop and a bike share station.
Unceded	The word 'unceded' means 'taken without consent' and refers to a process (of colonization) by which settlers from Western Europe sought to replace Indigenous laws and take Indigenous land.
Walkability	A measure of how walkable and pedestrian-friendly an area is.
Water cycle	The continuous movement of water above and below the earth. 'Urban water cycle' refers to the way water continuously moves through the stages of the water cycle in cities.
Water-adaptive spaces	Spaces designed to more efficiently manage water. For example by allowing water to permeate through the surface and into the soil to support surrounding plant life and groundwater recharge.
Watersheds	Distinct hydrologically-defined geographic areas where all waterways (such as creeks and streams) and overland flowing rainwater drain to a common receiving water body.
Whole systems	An approach to understanding how things are related, and how they influence and interact with one another to create a full system.



Councillor Charlene Aleck and CAO Ernie Bones George (Source: TWN Communications)



Sunset on the Stanley Park seawall (Source: City of Vancouver)