Open House

Summary Report 03.2019
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 03
ATTENDANCE 04
CONTENT 05
THEMES IN COMMENTS 06
WEST CAMPUS GREENWAY 08
CENTRAL CAMPUS GREENWAY 09
EAST CAMPUS GREENWAY 10
NEXT STEPS 11
INTRODUCTION

About the Project

The Campus Greenway represents a unique opportunity to address the Strategic Framework priority of increasing the vibrancy of campus life by enhancing the natural and built environment to create more opportunities for interaction and collaboration.

The Greenway will act as a vibrant academic and social hub along the primary east-west multi-modal pathway connecting buildings and public spaces on campus. It will contribute to the identity of the campus and also aid in fostering respect and reconciliation with Indigenous communities by contributing to a welcoming, inclusive campus environment for all.

In Phase 1, we engaged student, staff, faculty, and Indigenous stakeholders on the project values and project visions. The feedback received through the phase 1 engagement, was used to develop the draft landscape plans presented at the Campus Open House in March 2019.

The goals of this Open House were:

- To inform and update
- To receive feedback on draft landscape designs
- To confirm design directions for the Campus Greenway
Open House

The Campus Greenway Open House took place at the University of Victoria on March 21, 2019 in the McPherson Library foyer. Approximately 200 people attended. This report summarizes the feedback received from the campus community regarding the Greenway’s design direction. The piechart below indicates the breakdown of the attendees who participated.

Attendees were asked for feedback on the design concept, design toolkit, organizational framework, and draft landscape plans for the west, central, and east greenway.
The proposed landscape plan identifies hubs to enhance academic and social interaction, ecosystem restoration, campus gateways, crossings, and 'the Heart'. The proposed design strategies for these areas include new seating and furnishings, enhanced lighting, interpretive signage and panels, restoration of ecosystems, native plantings, and pathway improvements. To aid in fostering respect and reconciliation with Indigenous communities, the plan features Indigenous design elements at key areas along the Greenway. In addition, the Indigenous Plan's metaphor of weaving has been applied to both the spatial and conceptual framework through the weaving pattern of the pathway. This design strategy further supports community understanding of the history of the land as well as supporting the development of a community that is accepting of diversity, and inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
**THEMES IN COMMENTS**

**INDIGENOUS CULTURE**

“I think the importance of Indigenous focus is another step towards reconciliation”

“Focus on student participation, but more so must ensure programs are in place to provide space for Indigenous peoples to work on the land, if they want to”

“Be sure to work Indigenous community on campus when considering Indigenous plants. Get the experts on board!”

“The focus on Indigenous plants really makes me happy. I love the Garry Oaks and can’t wait to see it in action.”

“Including indigenous concepts is amazing. I fully support it.”

**SEASONALITY + COMFORT**

“What about rain cover? Shade cover?”

“Think about smell”

“Comfortable, wooden benches with backs!”

**CAMPUS IDENTITY + WAYFINDING**

“Tells a story of identity and welcome”

“How does it impact navigation / wayfinding on campus as infrastructure?”

“Work with Welcome Center to develop programming opportunities and wayfinding elements”

“More opportunity for EDUCATION through architecture and upgrades. Provide notes on the history, the past, our present and future of the relationship with the land.”

“Love the new name!”
THEMES IN COMMENTS

**SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE**

"Enhance infiltration of precipitation into the substrate to accommodate annual precip. patterns and reduce runoff"

"Consult with the Environmental Studies Permaculture Class!...Sustainable and self-sufficient!"

"Add more plants adapted to our current and PROJECTED climate - let’s reduce cost / time / effort of landscaping"

"Motion-sensor lighting! Saves energy and creates less light pollution!"

"Presents a good opportunity for a sustainability focused university."

"Instead of choosing 'low maintenance' trees choose native trees like Willows that require human maintenance and incorporate into classes such as ethnobotany. Let the students learn outside!"

"Timber should be reclaimed, large focus should be placed on environmental impact of construction"

**SOCIAL + LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

"[Social and Academic Hubs] are great and much needed"

"More outdoor classrooms!"

"I love more places to site and socialize outside"

"Adding new areas and more to create interactions will build bigger, stronger communities within campus, which is something we need. Love it!"

"Academic, social hubs are awesome. Can also be used for co-curricular programming [tours, student training, orientation, clubs, etc.]"

**VEGETATION**

"Edible native plants. Possibly some elements of permaculture and food security."

"More edible plants along the Greenway!"

"Less Grass"

"Research specifically threatened species"
WEST CAMPUS GREENWAY

Draft Landscape Plan

The West Campus Greenway is characterised by the protected natural area of Bowker Creek, the University Club Pond, and a naturalized (winding) pathway alignment. This area was identified in the Campus Cycling Plan as an opportunity to improve the connection to the centre of campus from Gordon Head Road via a separated pedestrian and cyclist path.

DRAFT LANDSCAPE PLAN - WEST

WHAT WE HEARD

In general, attendees supported the enhancement of natural conditions along the west campus greenway and feedback encouraged more naturalized areas outside the proposed restoration nodes. The feedback supported the separated pathway for cyclists and pedestrians.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

High priorities for the area include:

- Ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety are prioritized along the pathway and at intersections.
- Enhance restoration of ecosystems and provide educational opportunities through interpretive signage and engagement with relevant campus faculties.

“Restoration of Garry Oak ecosystems in areas which are now lawn”

“Think about cyclists / pedestrian sitting areas that avoid conflict”

“The existing is sad and doesn’t show who we are. The new look makes UVic more welcoming”

“I like the added water features and focus on Indigenous plants.”
CENTRAL CAMPUS GREENWAY

Draft Landscape Plan

The Central Campus Greenway was identified as ‘the Heart’ due to its adjacency to First People’s House, Petch Fountain, the Quadrangle, and the triple row of mature oak trees. During Phase 1, the health and well being of the oak trees in this area was identified as a key concern. To preserve and enhance tree health, protection of the root zones through seating and planting is proposed as well as irrigating the trees through the summer months.

WHAT WE HEARD

Attendees supported the proposed designs to protect tree health and longevity. Additionally, there were many verbal and written responses that indicated support for more areas to sit, study and socialize. Comments that focused specifically on the Quad were not included in this summary because that area is beyond the scope of this plan.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

High priorities for the area include:

- Decrease soil compaction through edge protection to ensure health and longevity of existing mature trees.
- Providing more comfortable social seating and academic areas.
- Explore opportunity to develop pedestrian priority zone by limiting or preventing vehicle traffic through signage, physical barriers and education.

"More trees --- keep people from walking on root area"

"More teaching areas, outdoor classrooms"

"Our campus right now is sad. We need this new Greenway"

"Increase permeable surfaces"
EAST CAMPUS GREENWAY

Draft Landscape Plan

The East Campus Greenway includes the development site of the future Student Housing and Dining Project. The landscape plan was presented to the community during the engagement process for the Student Housing and Dining project. Feedback received during these engagement events has been incorporated to create a consistent landscape plan across the entire extent of the greenway.

DRAFT LANDSCAPE PLAN - EAST

WHAT WE HEARD

The Eastern extents of the Campus Greenway received minimal feedback compared to the Western and Central areas, perhaps because much of the area around the new Student Housing and Dining has already gone through a public consultation process. Much of the feedback that was given supported the inclusion of natural features that encouraged social interaction.

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES

High priorities for the area include:

- Address the alignment shifts at Ring Road Crossing and Parking Lot 5.
- Enhance restoration of ecosystems and provide educational opportunities through interpretive signage and engagement with relevant campus faculties.
The feedback gathered from this Open House offered valuable input regarding the vision for the Campus Greenway. This feedback will be used to refine the Landscape Plan and confirm the general Design Guidelines moving forward.

The finalizing of the Landscape Plan and Guidelines will include internal reviews with Campus Planning and Sustainability, the Advisory Committee and the Facilities and Management Team over the summer months.

The final Campus Greenway Landscape Plan & Design Guidelines will serve to support and coordinate the implementation of landscape and public realm improvements along the length of the Greenway and will be presented at a Campus Open House in the Fall of 2019.