

Imagine West End Waterfront

Information booklet

This primer includes details about the design plan for the West End Waterfront.
Use it to learn more about this project, and how you can provide your input.



Imagine West End Waterfront is within the unceded, traditional territories of the xwməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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SECTION 1:

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

What is Imagine West End Waterfront?

Imagine West End Waterfront is a long-range vision and plan for the West End's waterfront parks, beaches, facilities, and the surrounding street network.

We are planning for the next 30 years of the area commonly known as English Bay, Sunset Beach Park, Morton Park, Alexandra Park, and Beach Avenue.

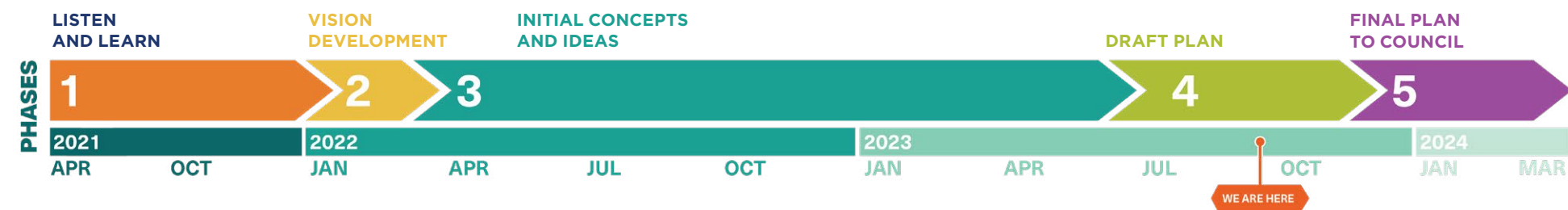
Why are we doing this? Why now?

A long-term plan will help address the pressures facing the West End waterfront, It also creates new opportunities to experience and enjoy the area over the next 30 years. For example, the planning process is an opportunity to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, while it must also plan for our growing population and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Read on to learn more. →

Where we are

Project Timeline



This design for the West End waterfront has been shaped by community input from two previous rounds of engagement and various technical analyses.

It responds to four main drivers of change:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Climate change and sea level rise
- Moving around
- Public life

Truth and Reconciliation

The West End waterfront is part of the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). It is a place of great cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance, and a key amenity for Indigenous Peoples living in Vancouver.

Since colonial settlement and occupation in the mid-1800s, First Nations' villages were displaced and destroyed, and the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Peoples' use, occupation, and access to the lands and waters have been interrupted. The area has been ecologically harmed and dramatically altered by colonial development, resulting in lost or damaged traditional harvesting and gathering sites.

An equitable plan will guide how the future West End waterfront could once again support traditional Indigenous practices.

Photo credit: Shannon Mendes

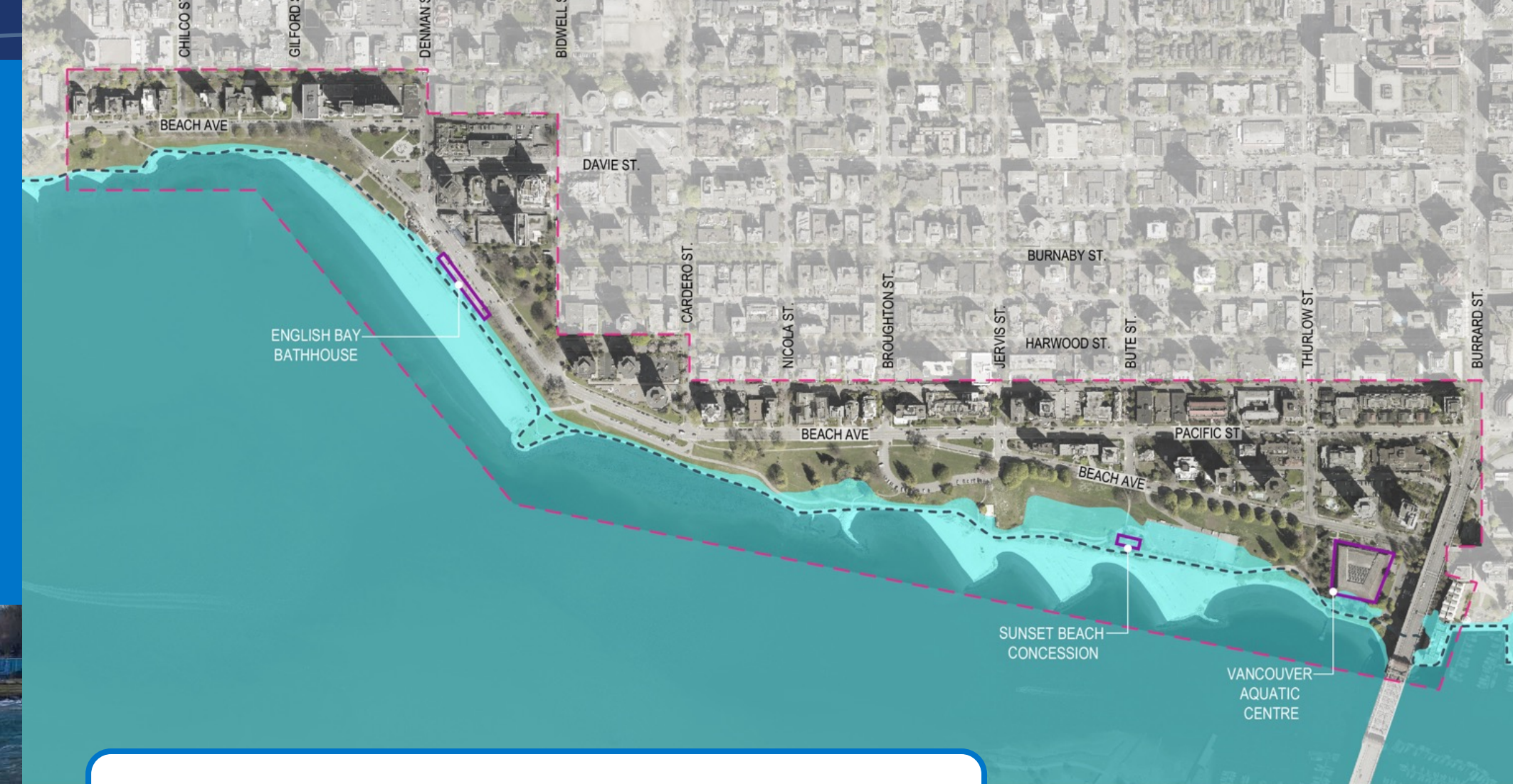
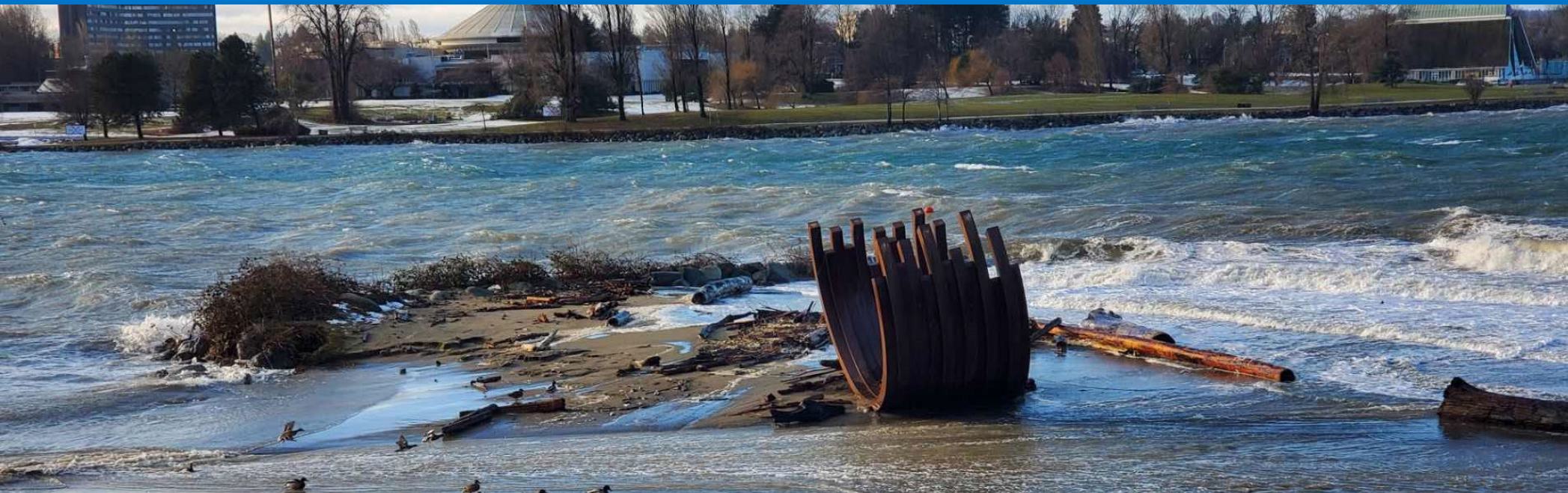
Climate change and sea level rise

The West End waterfront is experiencing and preparing for the impacts of climate change. This includes higher temperatures, drought, storm events, and rising sea levels.





Over the next 80 years, sea levels are expected to rise by about one metre, with more frequent coastal storm surges predicted.

We need to plan for these changes so the area can be enjoyed by both present and future generations.

Sea level rise will impact facilities, beaches, and the Seaside Greenway which runs along Beach Avenue in this area.



LEGEND

-  Mean high tide water level in 2023
-  1-in-200 storm event at high tide with 1.2m sea level rise projected for 2100
-  Existing Seaside Greenway pathway
-  Existing facilities on site

Rising seas are expected to impact several areas of the West End waterfront.

Moving around

As the city and region grow over the next 30 years, more people will come to the West End waterfront. To ensure everyone can access the area, we need efficient and sustainable transportation. The West End waterfront's existing transportation network has limited transit service, north-south walking and cycling connections, and space constraints. In addition, not all destinations and facilities are equally accessible.

A long-term plan will improve access, mobility, and on-site accessibility, so everyone can enjoy the West End waterfront area.



Increasing universal accessibility, like providing ramps and mats, will support people using wheelchairs or walking aids to make their way through sand to the water.

The plan aims to provide safe, comfortable, and accessible connections for walking, cycling, and transit to and through the area, as well as reduce conflicts on major paths and roadways

Public life

The West End waterfront offers a variety of spaces, such as beaches, fields, and public art. It also hosts big events like the Celebration of Light and Pride Festival. As demand for parks increases, upgrades to facilities like changing rooms and washrooms are needed.

A long-term plan will support both the quiet and louder moments for the waterfront and accommodate more use and visits to the area.

Our growing population needs facilities and spaces that can accommodate different uses, as well as adapt to changing weather through the seasons.



SECTION 2:

DRAFT CONCEPT DESIGN FOR THE WEST END WATERFRONT

Overview of the plan

This is an overview of the draft concept plan for the West End waterfront, divided into five snapshot areas you will see on the following pages.

The plan has been shaped by community input from two previous rounds of engagement and technical analysis.

Over the next few pages we share details for how the design will respond to sea level rise, transportation needs, and overall park activities, facilities and amenities as well as each area of the site.



You'll see three important components across the site:

- Raising the overall ground level by about one metre to address the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise
- Maintaining the continuity of the Seaside Greenway - though it will look different in some places - to accommodate efficient and sustainable movement through the area
- A balance of active and passive spaces with improved amenities throughout, so it is a welcoming place everyone can enjoy

Adaptations for sea level rise

The design includes raising and extending the beaches at English Bay and Sunset Beach to adapt to projected sea level rise. The intertidal zone near English Bay Beach is expanded, with planting of flora that live by the water to support local ecologies.



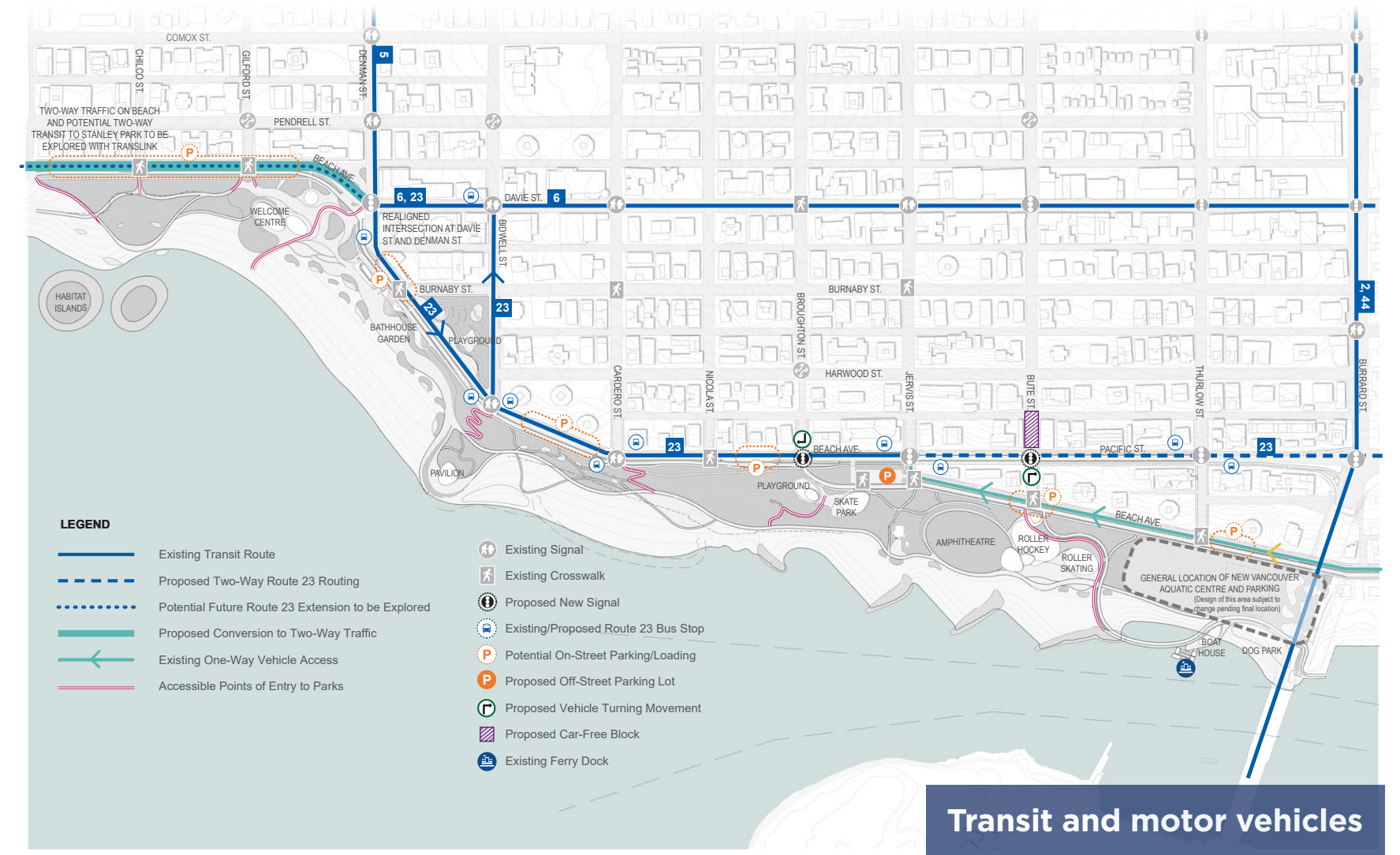
Transportation networks

To accommodate people walking, using mobility aids, rolling and cycling, the design brings the Seaside Greenway walking and cycling paths into Sunset Beach Park and adds an elevated section over the water near the Burrard Street Bridge. It includes a new cycling facility on Pacific Street from Jarvis Street to the Burrard Street Bridge. It also includes a low-tide seaside path in Sunset Beach Park to bring people close to the water, with a high-tide path that can be used throughout the day.



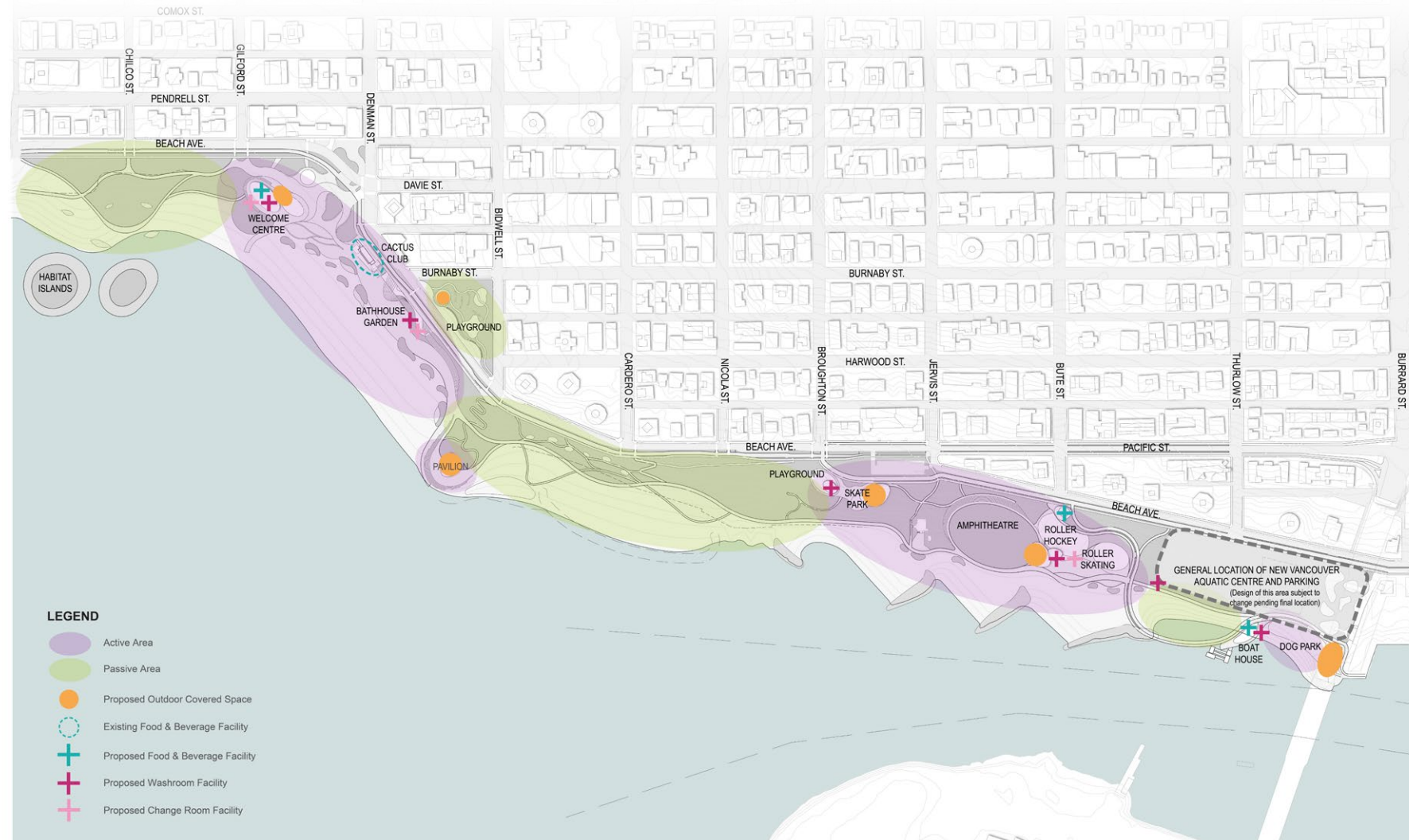
Micromobility refers to ways of getting around on small, wheeled devices. This includes human-powered devices like skateboards, push-scooters, and inline skates, as well as electric devices like e-scooters and hoverboards.

To accommodate people taking transit and driving, the design changes Beach Avenue west of Denman Street into a two-way street to improve access and allow for transit into Stanley Park to be explored. The Denman Street/Davie Street/Beach Avenue intersection is realigned and two-way transit is provided on Pacific Street to better connect to transit service on Burrard Street.



Park activities, facilities, and amenities

The design responds to a need for many types of activities with a mix of active and passive areas to accommodate different uses and activities. It also includes new washroom and changeroom facilities, covered outdoor areas, seating, lighting, and more food and beverage options.



Let's take a closer look. Proposed elements for each area of the site are provided on the next few pages, along with how these were informed by what we heard in previous rounds of engagement for the project.

Area 1

Area 1 is from the edge of Stanley Park to Gilford Street. The priorities for this area are maintaining the peaceful nature of the waterfront and adapting to impacts from storm surges and wave action.

What we heard:

- Appreciation of the peaceful, green qualities and a desire for quiet, unprogrammed spaces
- Interest in creating more habitat for plants and wildlife
- Desire to bring people closer to the water and make it universally accessible

What's included:

- 1 Softened and raised shoreline in place of vertical seawall to mitigate impacts from storm surges
- 2 Elevated boardwalk and viewing deck to bring people close to the water and create a unique experience
- 3 Adding habitat islands to address wave-induced flooding and make spaces for wildlife
- 4 Making Beach Avenue west of Denman Street into a two-way street

Area 1: Stanley Park to Gilford Street



view of viewing deck



Area 2

This section runs from Gilford Street to Bidwell Street, including Morton Park, English Bay Beach, Alexandra Park and the headlands. Priorities for this area are providing more opportunities for a variety of activities and crowd sizes, along with conveniently located amenities, including washrooms and change rooms. The design needs to adapt to projected sea level rise, which would eventually flood the current bath house area.

What we heard:

- English Bay Beach is cherished
- Create more space for activities like gatherings
- Improve amenities like washrooms, change rooms, water fountains, and food and beverage options
- Design spaces for people of all ages and abilities

What's included:

- 1 New bath house building with a welcome centre, café, washrooms and change rooms, and a splash pad
- 2 Raised and extended beach to address sea level rise
- 3 Current bath house building now functions as a garden with space for change rooms w/ washrooms and storage for lifeguard equipment
- 4 Realignment of Davie and Denman at Morton Park
- 5 Platforms and terraced seating, platforms, and terraced seating to create spaces for people to gather and enjoy the views
- 6 Accessible pathways to the water
- 7 Playground and more prominent bandstand with public access in Alexandra Park
- 8 Expanded headlands with a covered pavilion, providing shade or shelter from rain

Area 2: Morton Park to Bidwell Street, including English Bay Beach, Alexandra Park and the headlands



view of plaza



view of headlands



view of bathhouse gardens



Area 3

This section runs from Bidwell Street to Broughton Street, including the headlands and the AIDS Memorial. Priorities for this area are maintaining the Seaside Greenway route, introducing small gathering areas, providing access to the intertidal area, and maintaining peaceful areas around the AIDS Memorial. The design also needs to protect the beach area from projected sea level rise and storm events.

What we heard:

- Interest in more habitat for plants and wildlife
- Seaside Greenway is important as a movement and gathering space
- Appreciation of peaceful, green qualities
- All-season spaces are needed

What's included:

- 1 Series of small gathering spaces
- 2 Low tide seaside path allows people to get close to the water
- 3 AIDS Memorial is maintained, accompanied by a new healing meadow

view of gathering spaces



Area 3: Bidwell Street to Broughton Street



view of healing meadow



Area 4

This section runs from Broughton Street to Bute Street, including Sunset Beach Park. Priorities for this area are providing skateboarding and rollerskating areas, more seating and event space. The design needs to adapt to increasing demand for community space for different activities.

What we heard:

- Desire for more areas for activities and spaces for all ages and abilities
- Improve amenities like washrooms, change rooms, water fountains, and food and beverage options
- Maintain a space for rollerblading/skating

What's included:

- 1 Amphitheatre with festival lawn and café
- 2 Children's play area with new washroom facility
- 3 Covered skate park area
- 4 Roller plaza near Sunset Beach with grassy slope for viewing
- 5 Flexible hardscape that can be used for a variety of sports like roller hockey
- 6 Seaside Greenway walking and cycling path extended into the park; cycling path is added

Area 4: Sunset Beach Park



view of skate park



view of roller hockey and sports courts



Area 5

This section runs from Bute Street to the Burrard Street Bridge and includes the area under the Burrard Street Bridge. Priorities for this area are adding space for canoe and kayak launches, creating more space for dogs, and ensuring the area under the bridge is compatible with residential buildings nearby.

What we heard:

- Avoid loud activities under the bridge due to reverberation and impacts to neighbouring residents
- Improve amenities such as washrooms, food and beverage options
- Public dock space is needed to launch canoes, kayaks or paddle boards, connecting to False Creek and Burrard Inlet

What's included:

- 1 Re-designed parking lot under the bridge to create more space for food and culture gardens, but keep the current parking capacity (no loss of parking spaces)
- 2 Boat house with non-motorized boat storage, food and beverage, and ferry dock
- 3 Integrating a generous dog run into the current dog beach
- 4 Elevated path over the sea maintains the connection to the water and includes separated paths for walking and cycling

Area 5: Burrard Street Bridge, including Aquatic Centre parking lot



Draft concept design



When will these changes happen?

The elements you see in the plan will be implemented gradually over the next 30 years through the City and Park Board's Capital Planning process.

Once the design is approved, staff will initiate an implementation plan, identifying initial projects that align with our Truth and Reconciliation goals, priority areas that need to be protected from storm surges and sea level rise and tackling the projects that can and must be done first.

You can keep informed on the implementation plan by signing up for **updates**.

SECTION 3:

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU



Attend an open house

November 16
November 18

[Register today](#)



Take the survey



Contact us

WestEndWaterfront@vancouver.ca



[Sign up for updates](#)



[Explore and learn more](#)

shapeyourcity.ca/west-end-waterfront



Thank you



Your input will help us shape the future of the West End Waterfront.
Together, we can create a welcoming and joyful place for everyone –
a place where humans and nature can thrive for generations to come.

