



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Agenda

January 15, 2025
6:00 PM

City Hall

Aspen Conference Room
415 W 6th St
Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), the Urban Forestry Commission meeting will be open to in-person attendance. Options for viewing and/or participating in the meeting remotely will also be accommodated (see details below).

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION [Click here to join the meeting](#). To access by phone (audio only), call: 1-347-941-5324
Phone Conference ID: 989 890 263#

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. November 20, 2024
- 3. Community Introductions/Communications**
 - a. Introductions- 3 Minutes each
- 4. Special Guest - Comprehensive Planning, Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan Update**

Land Use Possibilities. Commission to discuss

 - a. Our Vancouver Land Use Possibilities Urban Forestry and Our Vancouver PreDEIS Handout March
- 5. Special Guest - Will Elder, new Enviromental Services Manager.**

Will to share his background and vision. Commission to introduce themselves and welcome Will.
- 6. Review UFC Calendar & Schedule – Commission to discuss**
- 7. Program Updates – Commission to discuss**

Urban Forestry Commission

Members

Jesse Durfee
Lucius Shields
Melissa Johnston
Susan Law
Jamie Beyer
Khanh Tran
Clif Barnes

Urban Forestry Department

415 W. 6th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660
TTY: 711
www.cityofvancouver.us

- a. AmeriCorps & Friends of Trees Update
- b. Annual Report 2024
- c. Arbor Day 2025 Planning
- d. Subcommittee Report
- 8. Community & Arborist Communications* – 3 minutes each**
- 9. Urban Forestry Report - Commission to discuss**
 - a. Jan Report and Memo
- 10. Commission Communications - Commission to report & discuss 3 minutes each**
- 11. New Business/Agenda topics for future meetings - Commission to discuss**

Adjournment

Community Forum Instructions

The public is invited to speak regarding any issue. Members of the public testifying are asked to limit testimony to three minutes. There are three ways to provide comments:

1. Writing: Public comments can be submitted in writing (name, address, contact information and comments) via email to charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by noon on the day of the meeting.
2. Remotely: Remotely: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8328 or email charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting
3. In Person: Pre-register by phone at 360-487-8328 or email charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us by 5pm the day before the meeting or fill out a Public Comment form in person prior to the start of the Community Communications portion of the meeting.

City Hall is served by C-TRAN. Route information and schedules are available online at www.c-tran.com. You also may reach C-TRAN at (360) 695-0123 for more information on times, fares, and routes.

Anyone needing language interpretation services or accommodations with a disability at a Vancouver City Council meeting may contact the City Manager's staff at (360) 487-8600 (RELAY: 711). Assistive listening devices and live Closed Captioning are available for the deaf, hard of hearing and general public use. Please notify a staff person if you wish to use one of the devices. Every attempt at reasonable accommodation will be made. To request this agenda in another format, please also contact the phone numbers listed above.

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday, November 20th, 2024

Time 6 p.m.

Location City Hall

Aspen Conference Room

415 W. 6th St

Vancouver, WA 98668-1995

Commissioners/Board Members Present:

Clif Barnes, Melissa Johnston, Jamie Beyer, Jess Durfee, Lucious Shields,

Excused: Susan Law, Khanh Tran

Staff Present: Charles Ray, Ian Bonham

ITEM 1: Call to Order and Roll Call – Chair/Vice Chair

The November 20th, 2024 meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission was called to order at 6:02pm by Melissa Johnston (Chair). This meeting was held both in-person and online.

ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes – September 18th, 2024 & October 16th, 2024

Motion by Jess Durfee, seconded by Jamie Beyer, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the September 18th, 2024 Commission meeting.

Motion by Jamie Beyer, seconded by Jess Durfee, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 16th, 2024 Commission meeting.

ITEM 3: Introductions – 3 minutes each

The Commission offered introductions for community members present.

ITEM 4: Draft Tree and Landscape Code Updates

UF staff member Charles gave an overview of the draft tree and landscape code updates, including revision of definitions, density

Members

Melissa Johnston Chair

Clif Barnes Vice Chair

Susan Law Past Chair

Jamie Beyer

Jess Durfee

Lucious Shields

Khanh Tran

**Public Works Department
Charles Ray**

415 W 6th St

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To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:

Charles Ray | 360-487-8328 | TTY: 711 | charles.ray@cityofvancouver.us

standards (including percentage of pre-existing trees in new developments), landscape buffer, ratios of trees to parking stalls within lots, contemporary increases to fines and fees, with follow-up discussion and Q&A from Commission.

Motion by Jess Durfee, seconded by Jamie Beyer, and unanimously approved to support proposed tree and landscape code updates and their inclusion within the wider code update process for the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Charles will notify Commission when updates go to Planning Commission so that UF Commissioners can attend and offer public comment.

ITEM 5: Urban Forestry Work Plan 2025-26

Charles presented a draft of the Urban Forestry Work Plan for 2025-26 formatted within the City's new branding guidelines. While the UF Work Plan does not change drastically between budget cycles and many items remain the same as ongoing programs, new projects are identified within it for the next two years.

The 2025-26 Plan will be finalized by the end of 2024 and posted online.

ITEM 6: Holiday Social and Birch Conference Room

The annual holiday social will replace a December UFC meeting. Proposed activities for the 2024 evening include meeting at Silva Bolds Plaza and then walking to a local brewery.

Beginning with the January 2025 meeting, the Commission will meet in the Birch Conference Room.

ITEM 7: Program Updates

Emailed out.

In-program updates include:

Pollinator Subcommittee members and supporters attended City Council meeting in October and spoke during community forum, to positive reception. Next steps include a drafted resolution that will be sent to City Attorney and ultimately go before Council and an application to The Xerces Society.

Outreach Subcommittee will be tabling at two farmer's markets in the winter, with opportunity for Commissioners to volunteer. Two current projects for the Subcommittee include a recipe card for an Old Apple Tree dessert with information on the back about the UFC and upcoming events, in addition to a door hanger regarding water bag removal.

ITEM 8: Community & Arborist Communications

Community member inquired about local zoning areas and offered feedback to Commission regarding additional pollinator projects.

ITEM 9: Urban Forestry Report

Emailed out.

ITEM 10: Commission Communications

Clif shared of tree giveaway and Friends of Trees planting.

Jamie shared of Pollinator Subcommittee.

Lucious shared of Burton Water Park planting on December 7th.

ITEM 11: New Business

Commission requested an update on budget cuts in regard to community partner programs and support that Commission can offer in response.

ADJOURNMENT

7:30pm

Melissa Johnston, Chair

Meetings of the Urban Forestry Commission are electronically recorded on audio. The audio tapes are kept on file in the office of the City Clerk for a period of six years.

OUR VANCOUVER

OUR FUTURE 2045

Possibilities for Vancouver's Growth and Development

Urban Forestry Commission

Rebecca Kennedy, Deputy Director, Community Development

January 15, 2025

Agenda

- **About the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Place Types:** What can be developed
- **Land Use Possibilities:** Where it can be developed
 - ➔ No Action: includes state-required updates
 - ➔ Possibility A: Lower Range
 - ➔ Possibility B: Higher Range
- **Next Steps and Q&A**



About the Comprehensive Plan

Managing Vancouver's future growth
and development

OUR VANCOUVER Comprehensive Plan

- A guide for the city's growth and development over the next **20 years** (2025-2045).
- Provides the overall long-term vision and policy direction to manage the **built and natural environment** in Vancouver and to provide necessary public facilities to achieve our **shared vision**.
- Last updated in 2011
 - ➔ Since then, changes in demographics, market conditions, community priorities, and more

Vancouver is an equitable and prosperous community, which ensures that all residents, businesses and organizations benefit from the growth and advancement we make together.

Vancouver will be recognized for our quality of life, as evidenced by affordable housing in vibrant, safe and walkable neighborhoods, access to jobs and economic opportunity for all, and leading-edge efforts to address climate change.

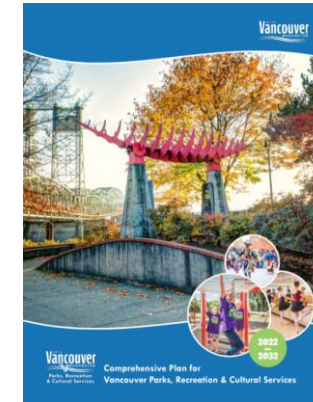
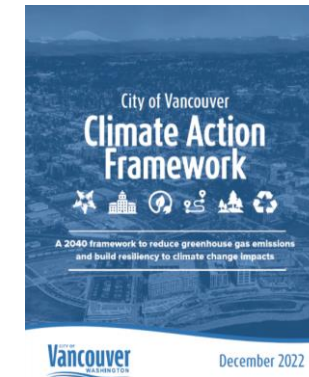
What the Plan Covers

- Chapters
 - ➔ Land use and development
 - ➔ Housing
 - ➔ Equity and inclusion
 - ➔ Climate
 - ➔ Economic opportunity
 - ➔ Parks and recreation
 - ➔ Transportation
 - ➔ Public facilities
- New state requirements
 - ➔ Allow at least four to six units per residential lot
 - ➔ Plan housing for all incomes
 - ➔ Plan for permanently supportive housing
 - ➔ Account for racially disparate impacts
 - ➔ Allow two accessory dwelling units per residential lot
 - ➔ Residential buildings 6 stories or less only need one stairwell
 - ➔ Calibrate impact fees by size of housing

	2024	Growth	2045 Targets
Population	~200,000	+ 81,000	~281,000
Housing Units	~86,000	+ 38,000	~124,000
Jobs	~100,000	+ 43,100	~143,100

Goals and Guiding Policies

- Connected and accessible neighborhoods
- Equitable access to opportunity
- Build up, not out
- More housing at all income levels
- Bold climate action and equitable adaptation
- Safe, multimodal transportation options
- More jobs in the community
- Community health and quality of life



Housing Action Plan Status Report February 2024			
	Not Underway	In Progress	Completed/On Track
Land Use and Code Initiatives			
Complete Camp Plan	• Establish citywide housing and density goals	✓	Notes: All land use and code strategies will be implemented by CSD through the Camp Plan update
Update Code	• Remove barriers to density and new housing forms	✓	• CSD performing extensive research and community outreach to implement
Update Zoning	• Bring single-family zoning requirements in line with state updates to address more affordable and affordable housing needs	✓	• Work is on track to be completed by June 2025
Expand Affordable Housing Resources	• Offer density bonuses and flexibility in other requirements to encourage affordable housing development	✓	
Policies and Practice Strategies			
Assess Development Review	• Complete comprehensive review of current process, looking for improvements	✓	Notes: Internal process mapping and feedback. Developer feedback obtained. Improvements identified.
Streamline Development Review	• Implement changes to eliminate unnecessary steps and reduce review duration	✓	• Implemented whitehouse permit pilot review
Increase Staff Capacity	• Add staff and increase expertise to aid review and processing	✓	• 24 recommendations to be implemented in 2024
Expand SEPA Category Exemptions	• Make all housing projects with 200 units or less a Type 1 project, in alignment with changes	✓	• Increasing capacity by reviewing housing specific review forms for
		✓	• Approved by Council December 2023



The Process



Learn about our community

- History
- Existing conditions
- Visioning



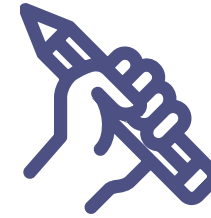
Develop land use possibilities

- Analyze data
- Place Types
- Community mapping activities



Study impacts of possibilities

- Draft EIS
- **60-day comment period**



Refine map, policies, & code

- Update based on EIS and feedback
- Support with zoning code and policies



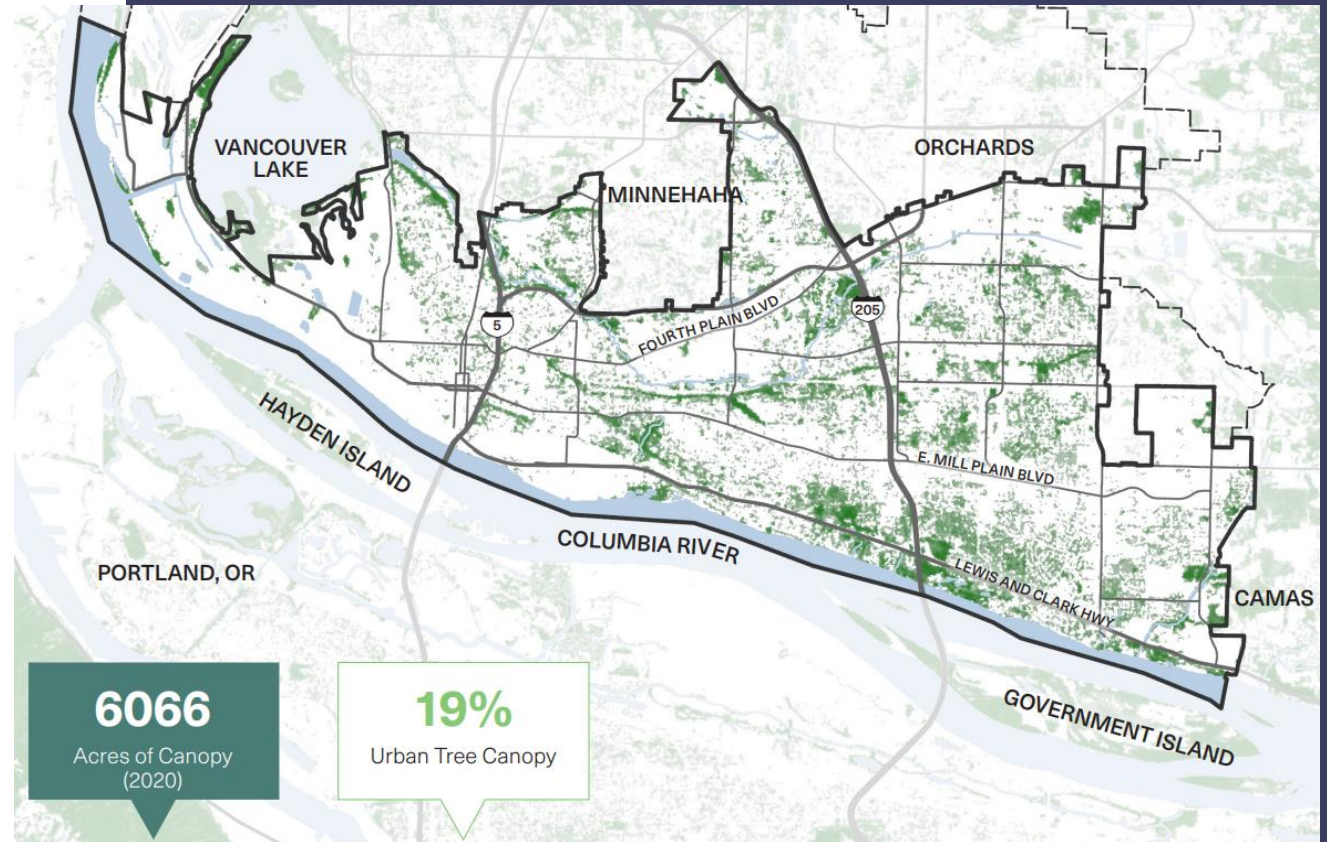
Adopt plan and code

- Final EIS
- City Council adopts in Dec 2025

Urban Forestry Considerations

- Working to balance housing and tree canopy
- Existing conditions
 - 2.4 percentage points less tree canopy coverage than city average in neighborhoods with more people of color
- Community feedback
 - Increase tree canopy and urban shade, especially given climate change impacts
- Zoning code
 - Tree/landscape code updates
 - Will come back when we have draft zoning code

Tree Canopy Map, Vancouver



Our Vancouver Community Atlas

Climate, Environment, Community Health, Sustainability, and Resiliency

Chapter Vision Statement

We envision a future where there is balance between the **built and natural environment**, with resilient and thriving communities that are well prepared to **adapt to the impacts of climate change**.

We commit to expanding **green spaces and the ecosystems they host, building sustainable infrastructure**, combating **heat islands** and providing every community member with multimodal transportation options that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We will invest in projects and initiatives that support those most impacted by climate change and engage all community members in finding solutions.

We will prioritize the development of infrastructure and community spaces that are ready to function during times of disaster and create places where people continue to be able to live, work and play as the climate changes.



Place Types

What types and scales of uses can be allowed

Place Types

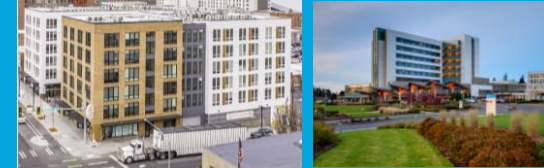
Low-Scale Neighborhood



Mixed-Use Neighborhood



Institutional/Campus



Medium-Scale Neighborhood



Regional Activity Center



Industrial/Employment

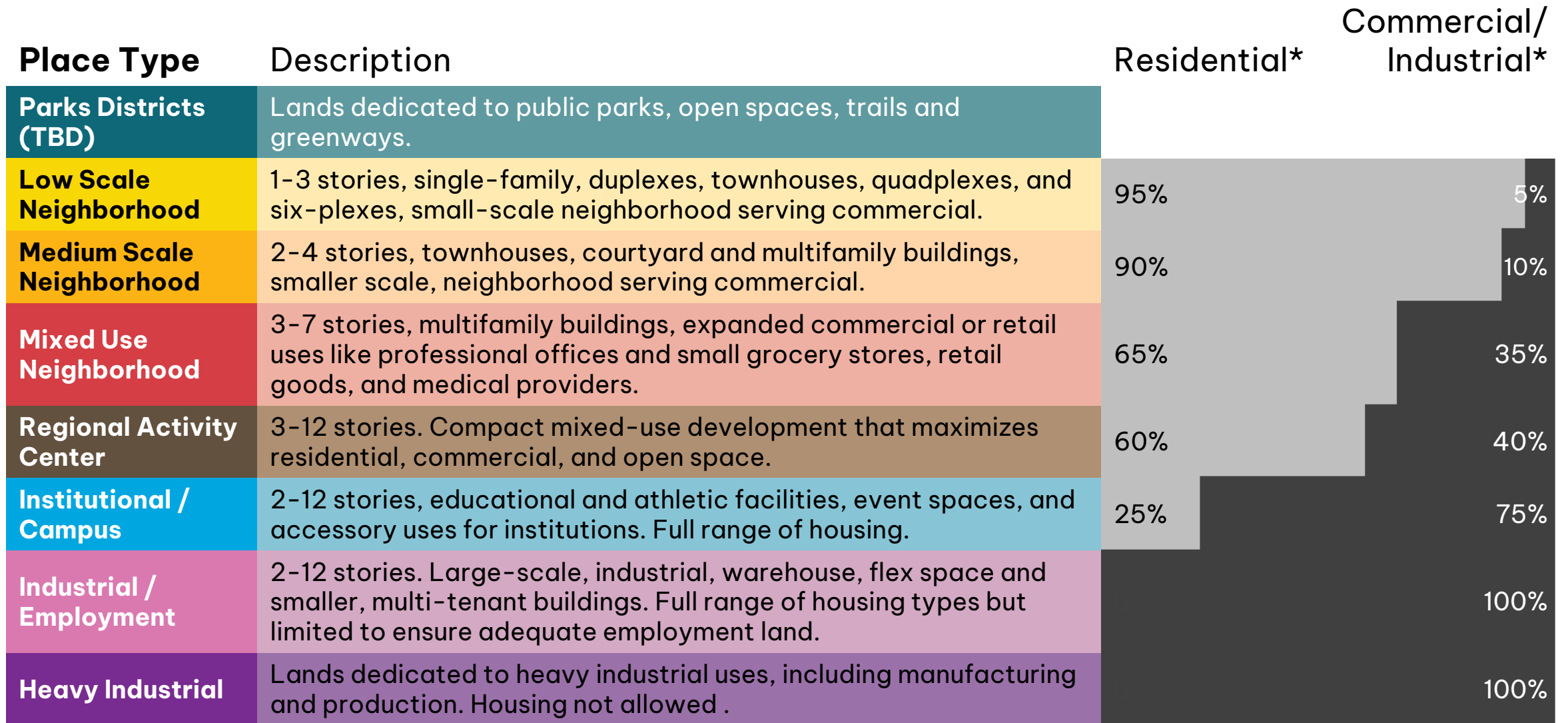


Parks and Open Space



Heavy Industrial





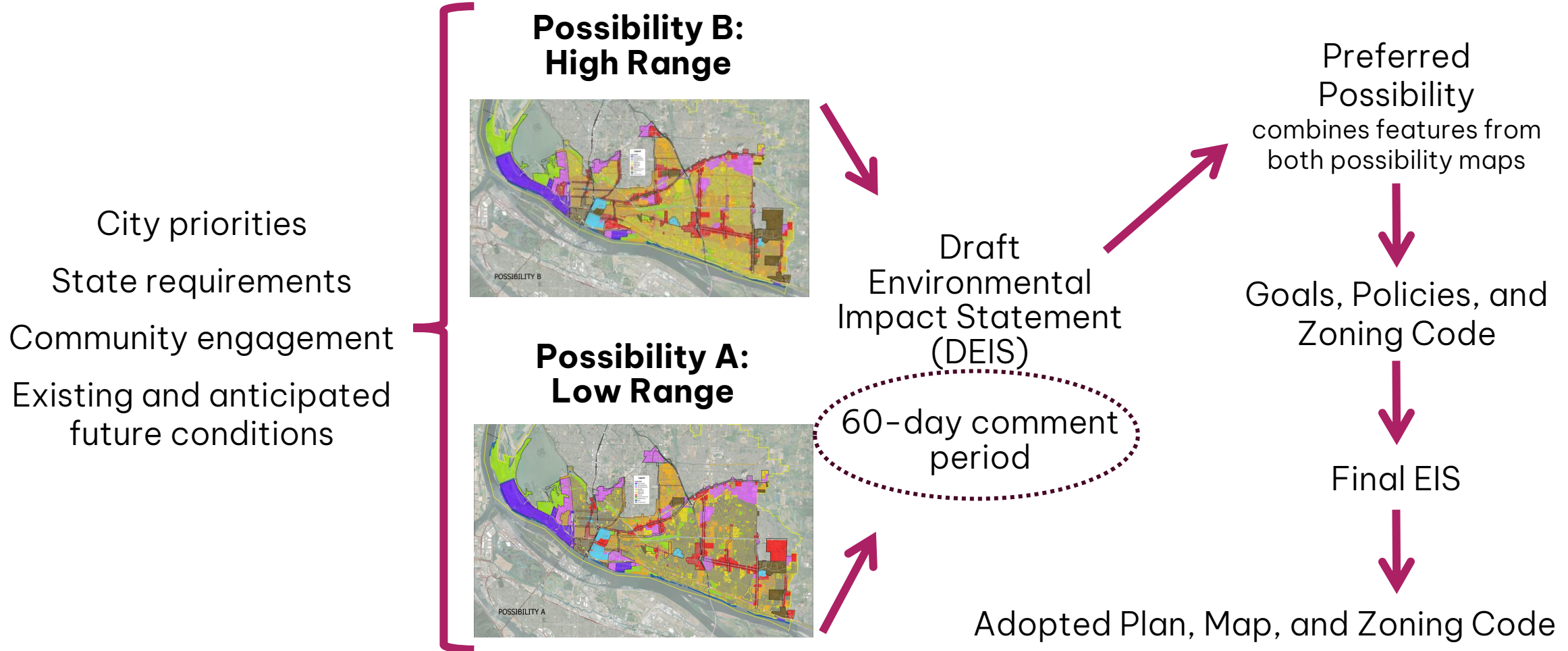
*measured in acres of land area

Land Use Possibilities

Where different things can located

About the Maps

Represent the **range** of ways that Vancouver can grow and develop to help achieve our community's vision



Percent of Land by Designation

Base District / Place Type	Existing Growth Nodes & Adjacent Areas	Existing Citywide	A Growth Nodes & Adjacent Areas	A Citywide	B Growth Nodes & Adjacent Areas	B Citywide
Low Scale Residential	11%	41%	3%	36%	1%	22%
Medium Scale Residential	10%	11%	14%	16%	11%	26%
Mixed Use	15%	8%	23%	11%	22%	12%
Regional Activity Center	14%	6%	11%	5%	22%	9%
Employment/Industrial	21%	12%	20%	12%	15%	10%
Institutional/Campus	5%	2%	6%	3%	5%	2%
Heavy Industrial	18%	7%	18%	7%	18%	7%
Parks/ Open Space	6%	12%	4%	11%	4%	11%

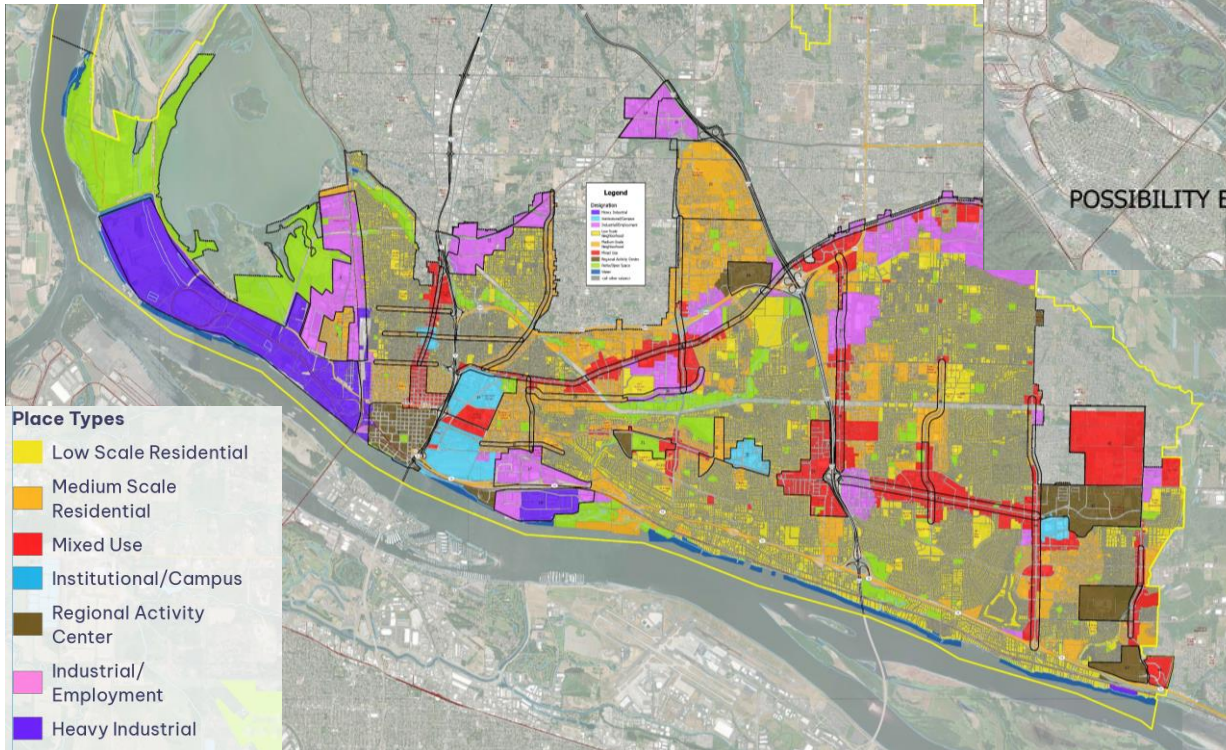
Notes:

1. Totals of all place types do not equal 100% since Water is not included in this table and percentages were rounded for simplification.
2. Difference in Parks and Open Space between the no Build and Possibilities A and B reflect the removal of P/OP designations on non-publicly accessible green spaces, like private golf courses. In the new growth options, the underlying place type is applied to non-public green spaces. No publicly-accessible P/OP has been removed in future growth options.

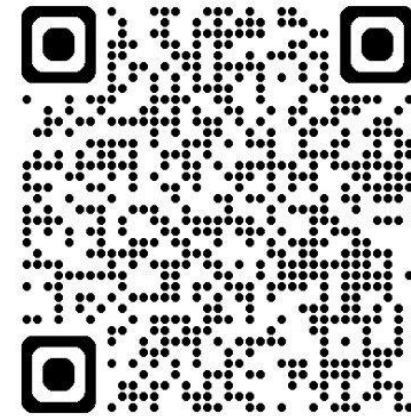
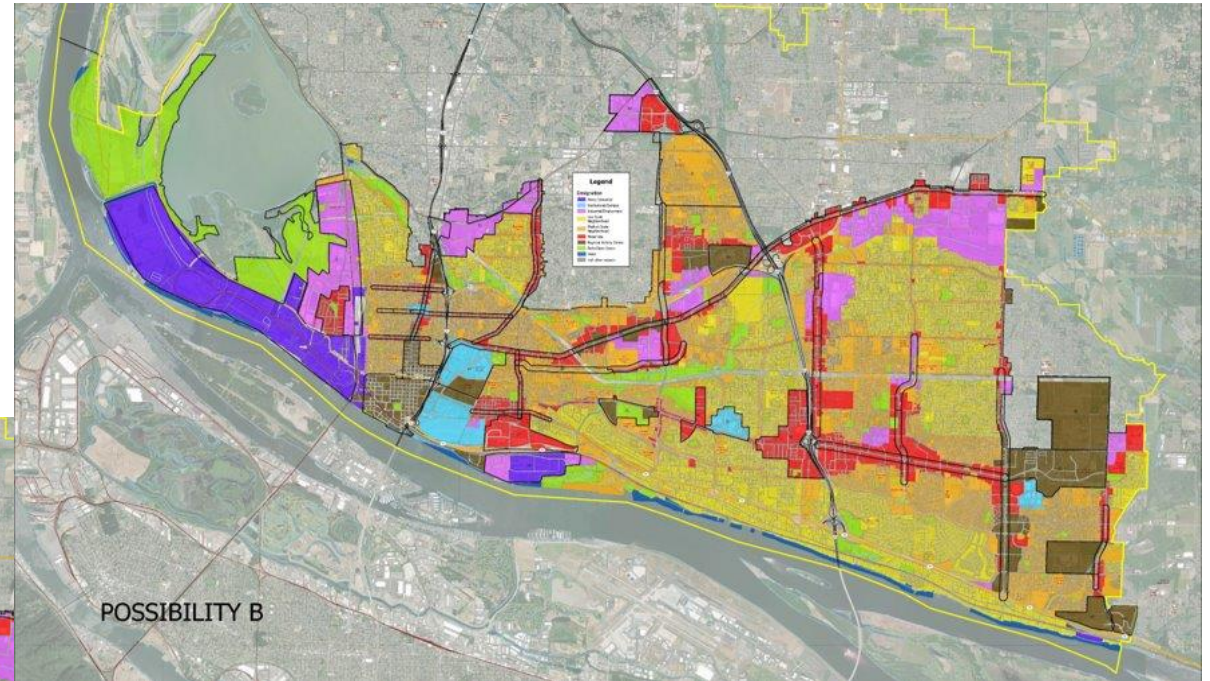
	Description	Housing	Jobs*
Possibility A- Lower Range	• Less growth overall • Most growth in nodes • Areas outside nodes similar to existing	• Less housing overall • Retains more low scale neighborhoods • Relies more on middle housing infill	• More jobs in light industrial / lower intensity development • Retail focused along corridors / transit lines
Possibility B- Higher Range	• More growth overall • Higher intensity of development • More change in areas adjacent to nodes	• More housing overall + in more places • More medium scale neighborhoods	• More jobs in higher intensity development, likely greater job density • Increased retail along corridors + in neighborhoods

Explore the Possibilities

Possibility A: Low Range



Possibility B: High Range

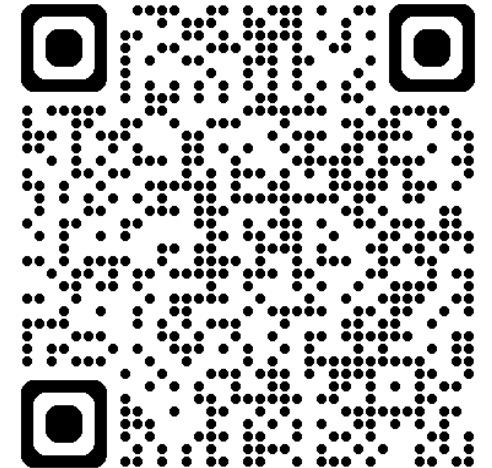


<https://tinyurl.com/bddye2bs>

Short Term Next Steps

- Explore the [Land Use Possibilities maps](#) and look up the different kinds of development that could be possible for places that are important to you.
- [Sign up for email updates](#) to be notified of draft EIS.
 - ➔ **Late March / early April 2025 – Draft Environmental Impact Statement comment period**
- Contact us to have the project team present about the land use possibilities at your meeting or event.
 - ➔ We can work with you to create a presentation based on your community's needs.
 - ➔ OurVancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us
- Learn more by visiting www.BeHeardVancouver.org/plan2045

Get involved!



2025 Next Steps

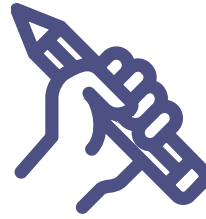
We are here!



Study impacts of possibilities



- Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)
- **60-day comment period**



Refine map, policies, & code

- Determine preferred possibility based on DEIS comments
- **Drafts of plan, code, and map for public comment**



Adopt plan and code

- Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- City Council adopts plan, code, and map

Questions & Discussion

www.beheardvancouver.org/plan2045

OurVancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us



OUR VANCOUVER

OUR FUTURE 2045

Let's Plan the Future of Our City!

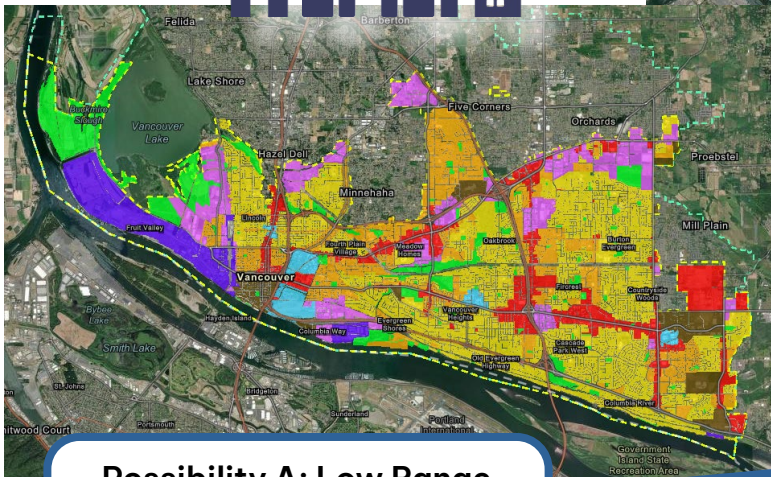
The City is working together with community members to create **OUR VANCOUVER**, an updated comprehensive plan that will guide the city's growth and development over the next 20 years.

The feedback you provide will shape the plan for Vancouver's growth and development!

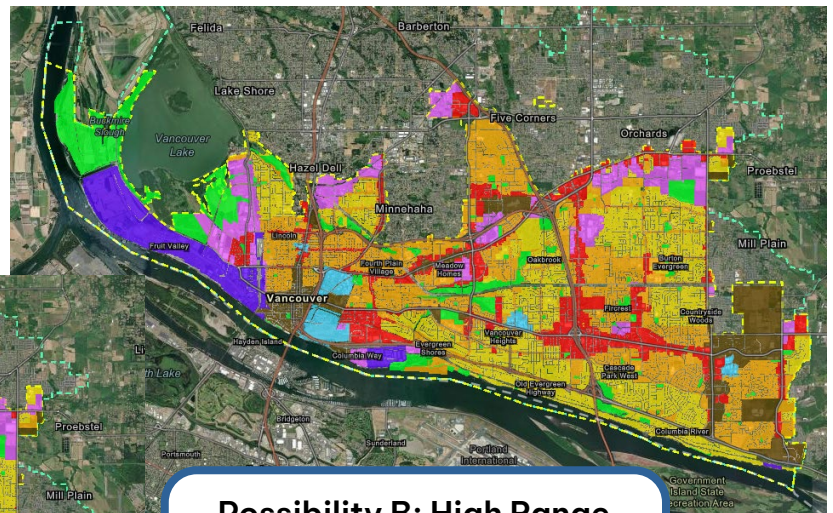
Mapping Vancouver's Future

- As part of this effort, two different **land use possibility maps** were created based on community input, city priorities, state requirements, and existing and anticipated future conditions.
- These maps represent the **range** of ways that Vancouver can grow and develop to help achieve our **community's vision**.

In late March / early April, you will have the opportunity to comment on a draft report that describes the potential environmental impacts of the land use possibility maps.



Possibility A: Low Range



Possibility B: High Range

A preferred land use possibility map will be created that **combines** features from both maps.

What could different places look like?

The two land use possibility maps show **different kinds of development** and land use that could be possible for your neighborhood and places across Vancouver. These different kinds of development are represented by “**Place Types**.”

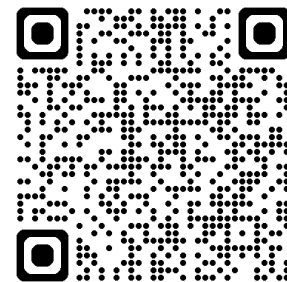
Check out the eight Place Types below!



Get Involved!

Visit www.beheardvancouver.org/plan2045 or scan the QR code to look up the different kinds of development and land use that could be **possible for your neighborhood**.

- Sign-up for email updates and learn more about the plan for growth and development.
- Follow us on social media @VancouverUS.
- Contact us to have the project team present about the land use possibilities at your meeting or event.



☎ 360-946-3514

@ OurVancouver2045@cityofvancouver.us

January UFC Program and Staff Reports

7. Program Updates

AmeriCorps and Friends of Trees:

Upcoming plantings:

Volunteer event, Bagley Downs Tree Planting at Not Utah property on 1/11

Volunteer event, Coop Park Tree Planting on 1/18

Volunteer event, MLK Day of Service, restoration planting at the Water Center on 1/20

Friends of Trees planting in Central Vancouver 1/25

School planting with students, Vita Elementary on 1/29

School planting with students, School for the Blind on 2/6

Riley is moving on to a new job! She will be working with the Hillsboro Water Department coordinating outreach and education on water programs. Riley's last day with Urban Forestry is January 21. She will be coordinating the plantings on 1/11 and 1/18 and transitioning the coordination of the youth program to Bri Graw. It has been a wonderful to have Riley on our team, and we are excited for her next chapter.

Annual Report 2024:

Staff has begun work on the annual report. Please send us any partners you have worked with, projects you have worked on, and other activities to be included in our 2024 Annual Report. See last year's Annual Report for reference, [UF_AR2023.pdf](#). Also please email your estimated 2024 volunteer hours to Charles Ray. If you have any questions about how to compile your volunteer hours, contact staff.

Arbor Day 2025 Planning:

The Outreach Subcommittee and staff are developing plans for Arbor Day 2025. Please share any ideas on locations, themes and any improvements.

Mac Awards 2025:

The Commission will be awarding the annual Mac Awards as part of Arbor Day. The Commission will vote on this year's nominees at the March meeting. Individuals, organizations, and businesses that have made a significant positive impact on Vancouver's urban forest are eligible for the Mac Award. Activities worthy of recognition include organizing a tree planting project, educating others about the benefits of trees

or proper tree care, preserving trees during land development, donating time and/or funds to advance the mission of the Urban Forestry program, developing creative partnerships in community forestry, or any other activity that inspires community stewardship of the urban forest. Please nominate candidates.

Subcommittee Reports:

Outreach:

Outreach 12/10/24 notes:

- 2/8/25: Save the date for a tree planting volunteer event for the commission w/ new Youth Corps members
- 1/4/25:Farmer Market 4 January... handouts and apple tree recipe in the works
- 12/11/24: holiday get-together
- Arbor Day planning in the works

Policy:

No report

Pollinator:

No report

Corridor:

No report

9. Urban Forestry Staff Report

Since the November Commission meeting, staff has been focused on fall/winter planting projects, implementing our 3-year Green Work Force IRA grant; our Tree Inventory IRA grant; next steps with our Urban Forest Management Plan and our workload to ensure all aspects of our program are moving forward. At the November meeting, the Commission requested an update on the city's budget reductions in regard to community partner programs such as the Watershed Alliance and Columbia Springs. Attached is a brief memo that summarized the reductions in the 2025-26 City Budget.

Tree City USA and Growth Award Application

Staff submitted to recertify as a Tree City USA for 36th year and for a Growth Award for the 25th year. The Growth Award is a prestigious award designed to recognize cities that have made notable improvements in their Urban Forestry Programs over the last year. Vancouver would qualify for the Growth Award due to the partnership with Friends of

Tree Adult Internship Program, Urban Forestry's work with Planning regarding Urban Forestry staff now reviewing all single family residences and the Old Apple Tree Festival.

Tree Inventory Grant 2025-26

This summer Urban Forestry was awarded \$350,000 to complete a tree inventory from Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as part of an Inflation Reduction Act grant. City Council approved the grant agreement on October 7, 2024. Staff has been working with Procurement on a request for proposal to secure a contractor to complete the project. The goal is to have a contractor by January.

Green Work Force Grant 2024-2026 Environmental Youth Corps Program

Riley has done an outstanding job creating a school-year program. With her taking a full time job with City of Hillsboro, staff will be working with Bri Graw in the short term to keep the program moving forward.

Proactive Street Tree Program

The proactive street tree program continues to move forward in coordination with Transportation's Pavement Management program. UF Staff is developing plans for the outreach and services for 2025 streets which will be complete from Feb-June. It is anticipated this program will reduce storm damage in the right of way, address social/environmental justice, and improve climate resilience.

Urban Forestry Work Plan 2025-26

Thank you for your support with the Work Plan. Staff will be posting it online on the UF website this month.

Staff has been working with Parks and Operation's Grounds Team to finalize our 2025 Park Proactive Pruning sites.

Our site visit inspection backlog is approx. 11 days (goal is 10 day response time) and hovering around 15 requests. Development and inspection requests are steady.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 27, 2024

TO: Urban Forestry Commissioners

FROM: Charles Ray, Urban Forester

RE: **Columbia Springs & Watershed Alliance Budget Update**

CC: Will Elder, Environmental Services Manager

This memo is to address Commissioners' questions regarding the Watershed Alliance and Columbia Springs contracts as part of the 2025-26 City Budget process.

During the development of the 2025-26 City Budget, the Columbia Springs and Watershed Alliance contracts were identified for reduction. This decision was driven by the challenging budget process, which required significant reduction goals for each department.

Both contracts were established years ago to support specific environmental initiatives and have proven to be effective and beneficial partnerships. Upon evaluation however, it was determined some of the services originally covered under these contracts were no longer needed or could be completed in-house. Rather than ending the contracts abruptly at the close of 2024, the City opted for a phased approach by providing funding through 2025. This transition funding allocated \$100,000 to the Watershed Alliance and \$30,000 to Columbia Springs for 2025.

The City remains committed to environmental stewardship and continues to achieve this mission through various programs, including the Water Center, Greenway Sensitive Lands Team, Volunteer Program, and Urban Forestry Program. We value our partnerships with the Watershed Alliance and Columbia Springs and look forward to continued coordination to enhance environmental efforts.