

South Campus Greenway

DRAFT Design Principles

Background: In response to concern from the UBC community that the greenway improvements adjacent to the UBC farm would undermine the ecological value of the existing landscape, an environmental report was commissioned. The report was shared with participants in a workshop to develop design principles for a greenway design. The following considerations were introduced to help guide the workshop:

1. Policy context, User groups and Adjacencies
2. Transportation and Connectivity
3. Place Making and Amenities
4. Safety, Accessibility and Wellness
5. Ecology and Environmental Sustainability
6. Construction and Maintenance

C+CP Staff summarized the thoughts and ideas which, along with input from the Pacific Spirit Park Society and the UBC Farm Land Use Committee, informed the following Design Principles:

1. Canopy cover and understory generally be maintained in a natural state, or rehabilitated with appropriate native planting. No invasive species should be included.
2. Any pathways should be oriented to the east side of the corridor to maximize preservation of natural greenspace adjacent to the farm edge
3. Pathways should be universally accessible and provide for the community to appreciate the value to the natural space. However, they do not need to support high speed travel such as cycling or running. A greenway not a transportation corridor
4. Safety and accessibility must be maintained for adjacent residential units (townhouses). Lighting should be limited to achieve safety and visibility while not disturbing the ecological value of the greenway.
5. Surface treatments should minimize impact on the root systems
6. Educational opportunities should be incorporated.
7. The greenway should be considered as a portion of system of natural areas which act as a wildlife corridor connecting to Pacific Spirit Park.
8. Any pathways should be routed to avoid existing valuable native vegetation, and utilize disturbed areas such as former access roads.
9. Mature tree root systems, forest soils, understory and mid-canopy vegetation should be retained whenever possible.
10. The greenway should seek to provide a visual and acoustic screen between the residential properties and the farm.
11. Trail meanders should be placed in well-draining areas to avoid the need for unnecessary ditching and resulting root damage.
12. Large specimen native trees and understory should be planted to replace any mature trees removed during construction.