Green Space Planning
Process and
Green Space Plan
West Broadway

Approved by WBDC Board of Directors
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Sincere thanks to each of you for contributing your time, thoughts and energy to this process; it would not have been possible without you.

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West Broadway Develop Corp Board and Property and Greening Management Committee
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# Table of Contents

Executive Summary ........................................... i
Introduction .................................................. 1
Process & Participants ........................................ 5

Research:
Why Green Space in the Inner City? What can Green Space Become? ........................................... 9
What is Currently Happening in West Broadway? .................................................. 12

Green Space Plan for West Broadway ........................................... 14
Phase One .............. 14
Phase Two .............. 18
Phase Three .............. 20
Phase Four .............. 20
Phase Five .............. 20

Summary of Results from Community Consultations ........................................... 21
Privately and Publicly Owned Lots in West Broadway ........................................... 21
West Broadway Development Corporation Owned and Directed Lots ........................................... 25

Overall Vision for West Broadway ........................................... 27
Ideas for the Future ........................................... 29

Bibliography ........................................... 32
APPENDIX A: Map ........................................... 33
West Broadway
Green Space Planning Process
and Green Space Plan

Executive Summary

The West Broadway Green Space Plan is a document built with community input to identify and work to improve access to green space in the neighbourhood, through partnerships with West Broadway residents, organizations and businesses. There have been nine consultations and focus groups held between August and December 2008, with over 150 people participating throughout the process. Green space can include community gardens, recreational fields, children’s natural playspace, community orchards, urban farms, compost sites, rooftop gardens, cycling paths, and reclaiming city boulevards.

West Broadway is situated west of downtown Winnipeg. The boundaries are Portage Avenue (North), Maryland Street (West), the Assiniboine River and Cornish Street (South), and Colony Street (East). There are 5,325 people living in West Broadway, within 170 acres. Over 85% of West Broadway residents live in apartment buildings and access to public green space is limited; accessible community green areas are critical.

The neighbourhood is gifted with many skilled and talented people and is also characterized by low income/high poverty rates, low education levels, and high unemployment and social assistance rates. According to the most recently available neighbourhood-level Census data, the 2006 neighbourhood profile, West Broadway has a high number of young residents – 32% are between the ages of 15-29, as compared to 21% for the City overall. There is great diversity of culture within the community as well, with 23.9% of the population identifying as
Aboriginal and another 16.2% identifying as immigrants or refugees. This diversity of age and culture within the community is one of the strengths and assets of the neighbourhood.

West Broadway has a higher proportion of citizens living in poverty than in the City as a whole: 60% of economic families and 67% of economic individuals. Additionally, there is a high proportion of lone parent families – 45% of all families in the neighbourhood – who are more vulnerable to poverty. Residents living in poverty face many challenges, including the financial means to pay for recreational activities important for health and well being.

The neighbourhood’s location promotes active transportation. 31.1% of West Broadway residents take the bus, compared to 14.2% in the rest of the city. 23.4% of residents walk regularly, compared to 6.2% in the rest of the city, and 5.6% cycle regularly compared to 1.8% in the rest of the city. The high interest in greening activities such as gardening, sports, urban agriculture, composting and green gathering spaces indicates many residents are already “thinking green” and sustainable.

There is much research to demonstrate the social, economic, health and ecological benefits of creating and maintaining urban green space. These benefits are particularly significant when you include the community in the process, design and creation of that space: “Urban green space – especially where neighbours participate in greening activities – can also contribute to building strong, safe communities.”

1 Evergreen Common Grounds. Urban Green Space is Good for Health and Community. Taken from www.evergreen.ca
Green Space Literature Review

There is an accompanying Literature Review to this Green Space Plan (document available on WBDC’s website, www.westbroadway.mb.ca). The overall trend in the literature review is supportive of the creation, improvement and existence of urban green space. The document explores social, economic, health and environmental benefits of green space development. Some of the highlights from each of these include:

Extensive studies indicate that a lack of urban green space can have negative mental health effects that include increased stress, mental fatigue and cognitive impairment – which in turn can have significant physical health implications.2

The renewal of urban areas by greening them increases the overall quality of life and helps to reduce social exclusion, which may have the largest effect on the most vulnerable members of society, such as the poor and the least mobile. Urban green space can help to constitute a framework where urban society and culture can develop, and to increase identity and a sense of community. It can be used to provide a ground for education and awareness raising in relation to the way ecosystems function and how urban functions can be integrated into the natural system.3

Goal of the Green Space Consultation Process

The goal of the green space consultation process was to create as great a variety of opportunities for community members to participate as possible. This ensured that as many people as were interested were able to contribute their thoughts and time, putting forward what could happen in current and future green spaces of West Broadway. The large response from the community also demonstrated the high level of community interest in accessible urban green space.

Participants were asked the same questions on what they liked about existing green spaces and what they wished to see. The feedback was gathered and presented back at one community forum, then a draft of this report was created and circulated to all participants. Most of the comments on the draft were included in the final draft, which was then approved by the WBDC Board of Directors.

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2 Evergreen Common Grounds. Urban Green Space is Good for Health and Community. Taken from www.evergreen.ca
3 De Ridder, Koen, Dr. “Benefits of Urban Green Space (BUGS); Research Summary.” Vito. December 2004. (p.46). Taken from www.bugs-group.com
Two types of Green Spaces Under Consultation

Eight sites were considered during the green space consultations: three sites owned and directed by private and community organizations and five sites that are owned or controlled by West Broadway Development Corporation (WBDC). Each space contains critical public or potentially public green space in the West Broadway neighbourhood. Final decisions regarding use of the green space belongs to the organization that owns it.

A. Large public or privately controlled lots

- Broadway Neighbourhood Centre
green space, owned by the City of Winnipeg and directed by Broadway Neighbourhood Centre

- Balmoral Green Space owned by Great West Life (East side of Balmoral Street, between Broadway Avenue and Mostyn Place)

- River Trail (0.5 km) owned by City of Winnipeg (Section between Osborne Street and the southern end of Spence Street)

As part of the Green Space Plan, WBDC will be working with the above organizations and government to support the design and development of their green spaces, according to feedback from the community and members of these organizations. Priority projects identified through the community consultations for the sites include:

- Broadway Neighbourhood Centre:
  Improvement of the already existing space, including year-round use of
the rink space; wading pool area converted to a splash pad (similar to Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre in Spence neighbourhood); improved maintenance and enhancement of the recreational field; natural playspace area; community orchard; ongoing community composting; and community gardening and gathering space. Because of the significant size of the BNC green space, all of the above can complement each other and increase the usability of the green space.

- **Balmoral Green Space, Great West Life:** Support for several complementary developments including a community orchard, natural playspace, and a community gathering space. Keeping the existing lilac bushes was indicated as important to community members. There was also support to incorporate food security initiatives into the above spaces.

- **River Trail:** Working with established groups like the River Trail Association, the City of Winnipeg, and the local cycling groups to improve the River Trail 0.5 km in the West Broadway neighbourhood, from Osborne Street to the small park at the south end of Spence Street. Residents have identified that this riverbank requires attention to turn the mud path into an active transportation network. For example, presently the paved bike trail ends just before the West Broadway boundary. There are no safe access points to the river, and residents wish to have access to the winter Assiniboine River Trail. Safety overall is also a concern. This trail is very important for active transportation connectivity between the downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods.

B. West Broadway Development Corporation controlled infill housing lots

Previously, the City of Winnipeg allocated four residential lots to WBDC for infill housing development, and WBDC purchased two additional residential lots. These lots are the sites of former houses that were demolished. The land use and zoning is for residential housing. As part of the Green Space Planning process, WBDC included these lots in the consultations to ascertain the interest in green space development on these sites. At the same time WBDC was also conducting an infill housing consultation to gauge the interest in different types of infill housing on these lots. The outcome of these two processes has been approved by the WBDC Board of Directors; please see below for the Green Space results, and please refer to the Infill Housing Plan for the infill housing results, available by contacting info@westbroadway.mb.ca.

As part of the Green Space Plan, WBDC will work with the City to have one of the five lots remain entirely as green space, and the other will be a cooperative effort between green housing development and public green space.

- 152 Langside Street, also known as Boulder Park, will continue as a community gardening and community gathering site, with community composting activity. WBDC and the gardeners will be working together with the City to ensure longer-term stability for the site.

- 128/130 Langside Street will be a cooperative effort between green housing development and public green space. The goal is a combination multi-unit housing (maximum 3 stories) for those in core housing need, and
community green space. This reflects the feedback from the consultations for a shared housing/green space effort, with the green space becoming a community gathering space combined with natural play space, and possibly some small community garden plots. This will be a unique example of creatively including green space development into infill housing development. The dedicated green space on this lot will be part of the Green Space Plan for the neighbourhood.

Community Sustainability

This green space planning process considered several levels: what could happen in specific lots already owned or directed by the West Broadway Development Corporation (WBDC), or owned and directed by community organizations, as well as the larger vision of a Sustainable Community and what that could entail. Some of the actions will be implemented in 2009, while others will be more dependent on finding funding and working to build the partnerships to ensure continued community involvement and support.

Examples of projects for a sustainable community include:

- A Green Map for the neighbourhood (please see the City of Winnipeg Green Map at http://greenmap.mbeconetwork.org/citymap.htm or the Spence Neighbourhood Green Map at http://greenmap.mbeconetwork.org/spencemap.htm as examples);

- A community composting strategy;

- Cycling and walking paths through the neighbourhood to encourage alternative means of transportation and commuting. WBDC is in discussion with some of the local cycling groups, like One Green City, the West Central Cyclists Committee, and Bike to the Future to support their already existing efforts in the West Broadway neighbourhood. Cycling infrastructure is dependent on City funding for development.
Already Existing Support for Green Space

WBDC supports green space in our neighbourhood by working with residents, government and funding partners. The organization supports four community gardens in the neighbourhood: Boulder Park, Sherbrook Street Community Garden, Spirit Park and 199 Langside Street. WBDC worked with the City of Winnipeg to develop Spirit Park at 200 Young Street and have this area re-zoned park, a unique initiative in the City. Each of the aforementioned gardens has a committee that oversees the activities of the garden, schedules “work parties”, and organizes access to water and distribution of plots, among other actions. In 2008, for the first time, gardening agreements were drafted outlining responsibilities of WBDC and each garden committee, and Guidelines and Rules developed for private plots on the site. WBDC organizes funding for staff time to support the work of the community gardens and programming with the gardeners. WBDC will continue to support the three community gardens in the neighbourhood. Following the results of the 198 Sherbrook Community Design Charrette in March 2008, WBDC will be working with the gardeners on that lot in the re-development process for a mixed-use site, as identified by the community.

WBDC has also worked in partnership with Klinic Community Health Centre at 545 Broadway and The Landless Farmer’s Collective to showcase urban agriculture, to promote food security, and to grow food for consumption by those in need.

WBDC has been working with a resident volunteer composting team to build, repair and maintain 20 community compost bins in six sites around the neighbourhood. The team has also helped with compost education and awareness building through local workshops.

Why Support Green Space?

The West Broadway neighbourhood - with its density, close proximity to downtown, diverse population, capacity of community members, and interest in sustainable lifestyles - has the potential to be a leader of urban green space in Canadian cities. With the high proportion of apartment dwelling residents in the neighbourhood, access to public green space is essential for health and well being. The largest green space in the neighbourhood (Broadway Neighbourhood Centre) is in fact zoned as R2 (residential district), the City has plans to rezone this area as Park in the future. Only three properties within the boundaries of West Broadway are zoned as park land, 200 Young Street (Spirit Park) being one of them. With the high need for low income housing as well as public green space, a balance must be struck between these sectors, encouraging cooperation and continued neighbourhood diversity.

A larger study could be undertaken to explore whose responsibility it is to “do green”? Is it neighbourhood organizations or community members? Is it the City of Winnipeg, Provincial or Federal Governments? Who should take on what part of the responsibility, including funding and maintenance? Does leadership need to come from all levels? And if so, where is it currently coming from and where are supports and resources needed? These are questions to expand upon as we move forward. WBDC will be working with the Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA), located just north of Portage Avenue, to complement their initiatives and improve green spaces in the inner city. SNA developed the first Green Plan in Winnipeg, and has been working to inform City Council and government of the unique needs of green space development in high density inner-city neighbourhoods. The West Broadway Green Space Plan is the second such plan in the City of Winnipeg.
Green Space Plan for West Broadway

The full plan is included in this document under the Green Space Plan for West Broadway section.

**Phase One**

Goals:

1. Establish stability and longer-term park/community garden status for 152 Langside Street (Boulder Park).

2. Work with Broadway Neighbourhood Centre and the City of Winnipeg to improve and upgrade their green space, the largest public green space in West Broadway neighbourhood, based on feedback from the community.

3. Work with Great West Life to improve access and usability to their green space along Balmoral Street, based on feedback from the community.

4. Work with established groups like Winnipeg Trails Association, the City of Winnipeg and other key user groups to make a plan and find funding to improve access, usability and safety of the West Broadway portion of the River Trail.

5. Increase usability and knowledge of existing community gardens, urban agriculture space, community composting sites and potential cycling and walking routes in West Broadway neighbourhood.

6. Coordination with each community garden to identify and support priorities and future transitions.

7. Support community gardens to build capacity and move towards more self-management of the gardens.

8. Work with green housing developers to ensure accessible community green space on the 128/130 Langside Street double lot, according to results from the green/housing community consultations.

9. Work with local composting team and interested community members on a neighbourhood composting strategy.

10. Work in cooperation with Spence Neighbourhood Association re: Green Space Plan/Green Plan accepted and adopted by the City of Winnipeg.

11. Ongoing commitment to creating more accessible green spaces in the neighbourhood.
Phase Two

Goals:

1. Continued funding for activities begun during Phase One, evaluation of Phase One and ensuring progress on Phase One goals.

2. Detailed workplan with updates from Phase One and designated steps for Phase Two.

3. Green space awareness building and communication of progress.

4. Develop Green Map with the community to improve knowledge and usage of available green space.

5. Active support of developed and developing green spaces.

6. Look to the future: What can happen next in green space?
Phase Three

Goals:

1. Communication of Green Map to the community to improve knowledge and usage of available green space.

2. Consider what has been achieved and where progress needs to continue with regards to the previous two phases.

3. Are there new potential areas for green space in the neighbourhood? Bring the community together to explore what ideas included in the original consultations might work in these spaces. Consider new options as well.

4. Support to other community organizations to encourage them to use the Green Space Plan as a resource in their own program and activity planning processes, tailored to the needs of their group.

5. Ongoing commitment to create more accessible green spaces in the neighbourhood.
Introduction

Why a Green Space Plan for West Broadway?

The West Broadway Green Space Plan is a document built with community input to identify and work to improve access to green space in the neighbourhood, through partnerships with West Broadway residents, organizations and businesses. Between August and December 2008, there were nine consultations and focus groups held, with over 150 people participating throughout the process. Green space can include community gardens, recreational fields, children’s natural playspace, community orchards, urban farms, compost sites, rooftop gardens, cycling paths, and reclaiming city boulevards.

West Broadway is situated west of downtown Winnipeg. The boundaries are Portage Avenue (North), Maryland Street (West), the Assiniboine River and Cornish Street (South), and Colony Street (East). Over 85% of West Broadway residents live in apartment buildings and access to public green space is limited; accessible community green areas are critical.

The neighbourhood is gifted with many skilled and talented people and is also characterized by low income/ high poverty rates, low education levels, and high unemployment and social assistance rates. According to the most recently available neighbourhood-level Census data, the 2006 neighbourhood profile, West Broadway has a high number of young residents – 32% are between the ages of 15-29, as compared to 21% for the City overall. There is great diversity of culture within the community as well, with 23.9% of the population identifying as
Aboriginal and another 16.2% identifying as immigrants or refugees. This diversity of age and culture within the community is one of the strengths and assets of the neighbourhood.

West Broadway has a higher proportion of citizens living in poverty than in the City as a whole: 60% of economic families and 67% of economic individuals. Additionally, there is a high proportion of lone parent families – 45% of all families in the neighbourhood – who are more vulnerable to poverty. Residents living in poverty face many challenges, including the financial means to pay for recreational activities important for health and well being.

The neighbourhood’s location promotes active transportation. 31.1% of West Broadway residents take the bus, compared to 14.2% in the rest of the city. 23.4% of residents walk regularly, compared to 6.2% in the rest of the city, and 5.6% cycle regularly compared to 1.8% in the rest of the city. The high interest in greening activities such as gardening, sports, urban agriculture, composting and green gathering spaces indicates many residents are already “thinking green” and sustainable.

In 2008, WBDC launched “Work in Progress: West Broadway Housing Plan 2008 – 2012” to map out housing development plans for the neighbourhood. One of the Housing Plan recommendations was that a prioritized plan be developed to improve access to green spaces. WBDC is committed to consulting the community about the visions for green spaces and to balance green space and housing development. In a neighbourhood with a high proportion of residents living in apartment buildings, there is a recognized need for both public green space and housing; this was an opportunity to consult the community regarding where priorities lie, and how WBDC can work towards that balance.

Why is the Process Important?

The process is important for several reasons. Firstly, holding community consultations and focus groups allowed the community to provide ideas and input into potential developments and what role “green” could play in the future of the neighbourhood. It is a method of influencing how that happens in the neighbourhood.

Secondly, the goal was to have as participatory a process as possible, setting up multiple opportunities for people to engage in ways that were accessible to different needs. Events were held at different times, dates, locations and days of the week, attempting to provide flexibility to enable different people to attend. There were some larger open forums, but also smaller focus groups tailored to specific needs of community groups. Workshop design was critical to increase accessibility and included small and large group discussion, presentations from various community members or groups, opportunities to express opinions and visions in different ways, and opportunities to vote on specific spaces. Food was nearly always provided, and childcare was provided at the larger forums. When a group expressed interest every effort was made to offer time to participate or hold a focus group. A Green Space Plan Advisory Group was formed at the very beginning of the process, made up of representatives of different constituencies and people with experience community consultations, to help identify gaps and to connect to more people and spread the word.
Overall Trends

There were some overall trends from discussions during the consultations and focus groups, ideas that got people excited no matter the space that was being discussed. Three of these trends were the need for community gathering spaces, children’s natural playspaces and community orchards. User groups came out very strongly in support of improving the local recreational field. There was ongoing support for community gardens and urban agriculture, recognizing that there are currently three existing community garden sites and one urban agriculture site in the neighbourhood. Not to be overlooked was ongoing support for community composting initiatives as well, as part of the larger vision of sustainability. In addition to these overall trends, many innovative ideas came forward and have been included in the “Ideas for the Future” section.

Outside Support for Urban Green Space

There is a short summary of the research conducted to support this green space plan included in the next section; the larger overall literature review is available on the WBDC website. Needless to say, there is extensive research on this topic, and examples available of successes and benefits of urban green space have been gathered from Winnipeg, across Canada and even internationally. The benefits cover social, ecological, economic and health sectors, and the examples demonstrate innovative community efforts and design for play space, recreational areas, gardens, among others. By supporting green space, the West Broadway neighbourhood is joining a creative and dynamic group of communities interested in affecting community change.
The Future

The West Broadway neighbourhood, with its density, close proximity to downtown, diverse population, varied capacity of community members, and interest in sustainable lifestyles, has the potential to be a leader of urban green space in Canadian cities. With the high proportion of apartment dwelling residents in the neighbourhood, access to public green space is essential for health and well being. The largest green space in the neighbourhood (Broadway Neighbourhood Center) is in fact zoned as R2 (residential district), however the City has plans to rezone it as Park. Only three properties within the boundaries of West Broadway (please see boundaries above) are zoned as park land: 200 Young Street (Spirit Park) being one of them. With the high need for low income housing as well as public green space, a balance must be struck between the sectors, encouraging cooperation and continued neighbourhood diversity.

Certain values presented themselves repeatedly during the discussions and should be mentioned here. These values, particularly concerning community and environmental sustainability, could be explored much more fully with participants at a later date. Some of the value trends included: non-pesticide use; neighbourhood composting; natural playspace compared to traditional play structures; support for alternative transportation incentives, particularly access for cyclists; and support for community diversity. In the section, Ideas for the Future, a list of further possibilities are presented.

A larger study could be undertaken to explore whose responsibility it is to “do green”? Is it neighbourhood organizations or community members? Is it the City of Winnipeg, Provincial or Federal Governments? Who should take on what part of the responsibility, including funding and maintenance? Does leadership need to come from all levels? And if so, where is it currently coming from and who needs to step up? These are questions to expand upon as we move forward. WBDC will be working with the Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA), located just north of Portage Avenue to complement their initiatives and improve green spaces in the inner city. SNA developed the first Green Plan in Winnipeg and has been working to inform City Council and government of the unique needs of green space development in high density neighbourhoods. The West Broadway Green Space Plan is the second such plan in the City of Winnipeg.
Process & Participants

Process

Goal:

The goal of this green space consultation process was to create as great a variety of opportunities for community members to participate as possible. This was meant ensuring that as many people as were interested were able to contribute their thoughts and time to choosing what happens in the current and future green spaces of West Broadway. The process also became an indicator to whether or not green space is important to community members, what is working well, where there needs to be improvement, and what needs to happen next as relates to green space in the community. This was green space strategic planning.

Community consultations happened in a variety of formats and all were communicated through emails to our contacts lists, posters around the neighbourhood, flyers delivered to residents’ mailboxes, the WBDC website, and word of mouth.

There were two open forums where all community members were welcome to come and contribute; one focused specifically on green space, the second specifically on green space and housing.

Recognizing that not everyone is comfortable in, or can easily access, large forums, smaller focus groups were designed to reach out to specific groups in the neighbourhood. Anyone
who was interested in having a focus group was offered one, and then a number were targeted to reach particular members of the neighbourhood, particularly if gaps were identified through the process. For example, an open focus group was held at Broadway Neighbourhood Centre because it is such an important green space, used by many user groups. This was followed by a smaller focus group, held at the Centre, targeted to and designed for youth who take part in the Centre’s programming.

Further to this we met with staff from community organizations to understand the patterns and trends that they were witnessing as they worked with people in the community and to hear where they thought priorities lay.

The actual consultations and focus groups were designed in a variety of forms. The green space community consultation was a combination of activities including drawings and neighbourhood sketches, small group work and discussion, larger group feedback, and opportunity to vote individually for specific options for locations. The green space/housing community consultation was held near the end of the consultations and focus groups and was a presentation of results to date from both green space and housing consultations, with a space for questions from the participants after the presentations were done and then the opportunity to vote on choices for green space and housing on specific lots.

The focus groups were tailored specifically to the needs of each group and asked four main questions. The four main questions addressed in every focus group were:

“Do you think green space in this neighbourhood is important? Why?”

“What kind of green space would you like to see in West Broadway?”

“Where do you go to find green space in West Broadway?”

“What do you enjoy about that space?”

The design of the focus groups encompassed large and small group discussion, games to get people thinking about green space, and activities like drawing and sculpture to bring out ideas.

Finally, there was a two week feedback period for the consultation participants and any interested community members to review the draft Green Space Plan and indicate if the discussion highlights had been included, and if not, what had been missed so that changes could be made. The final draft was then approved by the WBDC Board of Directors.

WBDC also owns the property at 198 Sherbrook. This site was not included in the community consultation process because it went through a community consultation process in March 2008. The results of this consultation can be found in the 198 Sherbrook Community Design Charrette report. The result of that consultation was a proposal for mixed use development, including green space. For this reason, the lot is included in the Green Space Plan, as part of Coordination with each community garden to identify and support priorities and future transition.
Participants

- Open Green Space consultation at Crossways, November 8th, 2008. (19 participants)

- Open Green Space focus group at Broadway Neighbourhood Centre (BNC), November 13th, 2008. (22 participants)

- Focus group at Art City, August 14th, 2008. (15 participants)

- Focus group at Crossways in Common, October 30th, 2008. (8 participants)

- Green space discussions with staff from:
  * Crossways in Common,
  * Resource Assistance for Youth,
  * Klinic on Broadway,
  * Wolseley Family Place,
  * Regional Health Authority.
  * Day Nursery and Cornish Child Care Centres

  (Total: 10 participants)

- Focus group at Agape Table, November 18th, 2008. (8 participants)

- Focus group at All Saints Food Bank, November 18th, 2008. (5 participants)

- Focus group at Wolseley Family Place, November 20th, 2008. (15 participants)

- Focus group at Resource Assistance for Youth, November 25, 2008. (6 participants)

- Open Green Space/Housing consultation, November 27th, 2008. (42 participants)

- Focus group with BNC Youth Programs, December 16th, 2008. (8 participants)

Total Number of Participants: Approximately 158 people

There were some overlaps as approximately 15 people came to more than one open consultation. The overlaps have been counted into each event because each open event held a slightly different focus: the first open consultation considered all green spaces in the West Broadway neighbourhood; the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) open focus group was focused specifically on the BNC green space; and the Open Green Space/Housing consultation included an overview of both green space and housing.
Green Space User Groups

The West Broadway community has a high population of apartment dwellers and youth residents. The list of user groups below has been informally observed and is not comprehensive, but it demonstrates the diversity of local green space user groups and the need to consider and accommodate different people with different needs and enjoyment of green space within the neighbourhood.

Examples of Green Space User Groups in West Broadway include:

- Recreational groups: ultimate frisbee, soccer, football, hockey, skating, basketball
- Daycare, nursery and family centres
- Apartment dwellers and Single Room Occupancy dwellers with no access to a private green space
- Homeowners and those renting private homes
- Youth groups and programs
- Elders’ groups
- Community composters
- Community gardeners
- Urban farmers
- Cyclists
- Dog owners
Research: Why Green Space in the Inner City? What can Green Space Become?

Green Space Development: A Literature Review of Research on the Benefits of Urban Green Space, and What it Can Become

Executive Summary of Literature Review

This is an introduction to “Why Urban Green Space?” and “What it Can Look Like” to pique your interest; it is not a comprehensive literature review. We have included a list of resources to explore further and support projects and community initiatives. The amount of research available on the benefits of green space is considerable. This document is intended to be used to explain the rationale for a West Broadway Green Space Plan, and as a reference and resource guide to supporting evidence for urban green space when applying for funding and community support. It also provides an argument regarding why it is beneficial for different community groups to get involved with and to support green space initiatives in their work.

The overall trend in this literature review is supportive of the creation, improvement and existence of urban green space. This document explores social, economic, health and environmental benefits of green space development. Some of the highlights from each of these include:
Extensive studies indicate that a lack of urban green space can have negative mental health effects that include increased stress, mental fatigue and cognitive impairment – which in turn can have significant physical health implications. Urban green space – especially where neighbours participate in greening activities – can also contribute to building strong, safe communities.4

The renewal of urban areas by greening them increases the overall quality of life and helps to reduce social exclusion, which may have the largest effect on the most vulnerable members of society, such as the poor and the least mobile. Urban green space can help to constitute a framework where urban society and culture can develop, and to increase identity and a sense of community. It can be used to provide a ground for education and awareness raising in relation to the way ecosystems function and how urban functions can be integrated into the natural system.5

Much of the current research focuses on the relationship between urban green space and health, at both a personal and community level (de Vries et al., 2003). Kuo (2001) suggests that one of the major problems facing many inner city neighbourhoods is a lack of green space, preventing people from having a place they can relax mentally, which, in turn, leads to mental fatigue and ultimately poor coping behaviours and outcomes.6

4 Evergreen Common Grounds. *Urban Green Space is Good for Health and Community.* Taken from www.evergreen.ca

The quality of the urban environment is increasingly recognized to be a key ingredient of the economic regeneration of European cities. High environmental quality has been a factor in attracting investment and building competitive advantage. Urban congestion and poor quality of life, on the other hand, defers investment in cities.7

Green space, even in urban areas where space may be more limited, can be many things! This document explores some of them, including stories and examples of how different communities – including Winnipeg – have made creative use of space to include green space. Some of the creations and activities include:

- Natural Playspace
- Community Orchards
- Recreational Fields
- Community and Collective Gardening
- Urban Agriculture
- Rooftop Gardens
- Reclaiming City Boulevards
- Street Reclaiming and Traffic Calming
- Community Gathering Spaces

There is a list of further resources at the end of the full Literature Review document, link below.

Green space in urban areas, particularly areas as densely populated as the West Broadway neighbourhood, is beneficial on multiple levels: health, economic, social, environmental, safety... Considering these benefits now will enable residents, community organizations and businesses, as well as urban planners, to effectively and enthusiastically incorporate and enhance green space in the community.

What is Currently Happening in West Broadway?

Many green activities are already happening in West Broadway. The West Broadway Development Corporation is involved in the following green initiatives in the neighbourhood:

- Community Gardens with over 70 volunteer gardeners:
  - Spirit Park Garden
  - Boulder Park Garden
  - Sherbrook Street Community Garden
  - The new 199 Langside Garden, available 2009 - 2010

- Community Garden Committees in each of the gardens above

- Community Composting Initiative:
  - 20 community compost bins in 6 locations
  - A resident-driven volunteer community composting team
  - Local “Leaf it with West Broadway” campaign to gather leaves for composting and divert leaves from the landfill
• Urban Agriculture:
  * Urban agriculture site in partnership with The Landless Farmers and Klinic on Broadway
  * Coordinated by the Good Food Club
  * Veggie Van: brings in healthy local food to an inner city neighbourhood market
• Community Tree Banding:
  * Coordinating and locating funding for a fall community tree-banding event to protect the public boulevard trees in the neighbourhood
• Green Workshops and Education:
  * Composting, compost bin building and gardening workshops, often led by community members
  * Garden Tours, frequently led by gardeners
• Spring Neighbourhood Clean Up:
  * Seasonal event to pull community members and organizations together to clean up the neighbourhood after the winter snow has melted. Usually includes:
    * Garbage and litter removal
    * Leaf removal
    * Graffiti patrol
    * Overflowing bin patrol
Green Space Plan for West Broadway

Phase One

Goals:

1. Establish stability and longer-term park/community garden status for 152 Langside Street (Boulder Park).

2. Work with Broadway Neighbourhood Centre and the City of Winnipeg to improve and upgrade their green space, the largest public green space in West Broadway neighbourhood, based on feedback from the community.

3. Work with Great West Life to improve access and usability to their green space along Balmoral Street, based on feedback from the community.

4. Work with established groups like Winnipeg Trails Association, the City of Winnipeg and other key user groups to make a plan and find funding to improve access, usability and safety of the West Broadway portion of the River Trail.

5. Increase usability and knowledge of existing community gardens, urban agriculture space, community composting sites and potential cycling and walking routes in West Broadway neighbourhood.
6. Coordination with each community garden to identify and support priorities and future transitions.

7. Support community gardens to build capacity and move towards more self-management of the gardens.

8. Work with green housing developers to ensure accessible community green space on the 128/130 Langside Street double lot, according to results from the green space/housing community consultations.

9. Work with local composting team and interested community members on a neighbourhood composting strategy.

10. Work in cooperation with Spence Neighbourhood Association re: Green Space Plans accepted and adopted by the City of Winnipeg.

11. Ongoing commitment to creating more accessible green spaces in the neighbourhood.

Steps to Achieve these Goals:

1. Establish stability or longer-term park/community garden status for 152 Langside Street (Boulder Park).
   a. Work with the City’s Planning Department to identify methods to establish the best possible level of stability for the ongoing use of 152 Langside as a popular community garden space. Options could include: setting up a community/WBDC/City agreement or lease that would allow the gardeners to continue to garden that space. A lease that could be renewed every few years would offer at least a bit more stability than renewal of garden lease on a yearly basis, for the short-term. Longer term options include rezoning the site as Park.
   b. Include gardeners or Boulder Park committee representative in the decision-making.

2. Work with Broadway Neighbourhood Centre to improve and upgrade their green space, the largest public green space in West Broadway neighbourhood, based on feedback from the community.
   a. Report back to BNC Board with results from the community consultations re: current and potential future use of their green space.
   b. Work with BNC and the City of Winnipeg to support the projects they decide to initiate based on the consultations. For example: Coordinate discussion between BNC and the City re: upgrading current green space that is critical to a neighbourhood; connect BNC to the various experts involved in community orchard development, natural playspace development, children's stamp pad development, garden and park development; support continued community input as these spaces are developed; help find funding and coordinate partnerships to ensure this green
space is everything it can be, with as much community involvement as possible.

3. Work with Great West Life to improve access to and usability of their green space along Balmoral Street, based on feedback from the community.

   a. Write letter of intent and proposal to Great West Life with a potential plan to develop their green space along Balmoral Street according to feedback from the community.

   b. Upon approval, work with Great West Life to coordinate with planners to develop that space, and connect to experts on natural play space, community orchard development, and community gathering spaces.

   c. Support to find complementary funding to develop that space according to community feedback.

   d. Support continuing involvement of community members in the development and creation of the space.

4. Work with already involved groups like Winnipeg Trails Association, the City of Winnipeg and other key user groups to make a plan and find funding to improve access, usability and safety of the West Broadway portion of the River Trail.

   a. Coordinate user groups of this space to design and develop the access, usability and safety of this already existing but underused community green space.

   b. Include feedback from the community consultations like safe summer and winter access to the water, more lighting, a water garden, safe area for natural playspace, etc.; support to find funding areas; and write funding proposals.

5. Increase usability and awareness of existing community gardens, urban agriculture space, community composting sites and potential cycling and walking routes in West Broadway neighbourhood.

   a. Create a green map/green pamphlet for immediate use including the locations of the community gardens, urban agriculture site, community compost bins, and other green initiatives of the community.

   b. Work with the Eco-Network to determine the timing and feasibility of making a Green Map of West Broadway, complementing and building on the Green Plan created with the community. Step one is the addition of West Broadway green spaces to the City of Winnipeg Green Map (http://greenmap.mbeconetwork.org/index.htm).
c. Add West Broadway community garden and urban agriculture sites and information to the City of Winnipeg Garden and Allotment Map. Include links to this site on the WBDC Greening web page.

d. Improve signage at each of the community garden and compost sites.

6. Coordination with each community garden to identify and support priorities and future transition.

a. Coordinate with garden committees and gardeners to identify and develop each garden’s priorities for the next three years: visioning and strategic planning.

b. Ongoing support for community gardens, including organizing, educational workshops, capacity-building and conflict mediation.

c. Support WBDC Property and Greening Management Committee and the 198 Sherbrook Working Group to ensure continued community involvement and accessible gardens and green space through the transition and redevelopment of 198 Sherbrook.

d. Communication with gardeners and community as processes and projects develop.

e. Develop new green spaces as sites become available to accommodate the demand for community garden plots.

7. Support community gardens to build capacity and move towards more self-management of the gardens.

8. Work with green housing developers to ensure accessible community green space on the 128/130 Langside Street double lot, according to results from the green space/housing community consultations.

a. Coordinate with green housing developers throughout proposal and development process to ensure development of accessible community green space is included in the plans for housing development on 128/130 Langside Street. (This double lot was identified by the community as one that would be optimal for combined green space/housing use).

b. Coordinate continued inclusion of community members in this process.

9. Work with local composting team and interested community members on a neighbourhood composting strategy.

a. Include the community compost bins on a green map and other promotional materials.
b. Work with the resident composting team to ensure that the bins are running well and are maintained, and that finished compost is fairly distributed.

c. Education and awareness of the benefits of compost. This could happen through various means, including workshops, information booklets, signs at the sites, etc.

d. Explore with the resident compost team how to create a neighbourhood composting strategy. Include potential goal for amount of total waste composted, plan for how to measure the amount and assessment of the strategy’s overall impact on waste reduction in the neighbourhood.

10. Work in cooperation with Spence Neighbourhood Association re: Green Space Plan/Green Plan accepted and adopted by the City of Winnipeg.

11. Ongoing commitment to creating more accessible green spaces in the neighbourhood.

Phase Two

Goals:

1. Continued funding for activities begun during Phase One, evaluation of Phase One and ensuring progress on Phase One goals.

2. Detailed workplan with updates from Phase One and designated steps for Phase Two.

3. Green space awareness building and communication of progress.

4. Develop Green Map with the community to improve knowledge and usage of available green space.

   a. Coordinate with Resource Conservation Manitoba to build, publish and share a Green Map of West Broadway neighbourhood, building on and complementing the Green Space Plan.

   b. Work to ensure community involvement and decision-making in the development of this map.

   c. Include existing green spaces (e.g., Community gardens and urban agriculture space) and spaces identified as “hoped-for” green spaces by the community through the green space consultations.

5. Active support of developed and developing green spaces.

6. Look to the future: What can happen next in green space?
Steps to Achieve these Goals:

1. Find continued funding for the ongoing development of green spaces identified above.

2. Coordinate continued development of activities and projects identified above.

3. Work with the Eco-Network to decide on feasibility and possibly create a Green Map of West Broadway. Details below in “Green Map” section.

4. Coordinate space for feedback from community on progress in Phase One, plans for Phase Two, and progress so far.

5. Evaluation of Phase One and re-evaluation of plans for Phase Two.

6. Communication of successes and development from Phase One, to be shared with the community.

7. Support increased use and potential programming in the newly accessible usable created green spaces. This will be critical for ongoing community use and support for these new spaces. This could include festivals, tours, sports or youth activity programming, connecting programs of other groups to usage opportunities of the new spaces (eg. Nursery centres with natural playspaces, youth groups with newly developed sports field and activity spaces, entertainment groups with community gathering spaces, art organizations with space to create or place art projects, etc).

8. Exploration and discussion with community organizations and community members of potential new space for green development.

9. Coordinate partnerships and funding for next steps, particularly those identified by partner organizations.

10. Explore other ideas included in the Green Space Plan to identify some which would further complement or improve projects that have been achieved in Phase One.
Phase Three

Goals:

1. Communication of Green Map to the community to improve knowledge and usage of available green space.

2. Consider what has been achieved and where progress needs to continue with regards to the previous two phases.

3. Are there new potential areas for green space in the neighbourhood? Bring the community together to explore what ideas included in the original consultations might work in these spaces. Consider new options as well.

4. Support to other community organizations to encourage them to use the Green Space Plan as a resource in their own program and activity planning processes, tailored to the needs of their group.

5. Ongoing commitment to create more accessible green spaces in the neighbourhood.

Phase Four

Evaluate successes and challenges during the previous three phases of green space planning and development.

Phase Five

Create a new Green Space Strategic Plan for emerging priorities, based on Phase Four evaluation of success and challenges and new discussions taking place.
Summary of Results from Community Consultations

Privately and Publicly Owned Lots in West Broadway

Summary

The three sites - the Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Great West Life Balmoral Green, and the River Trail - are all owned and directed by organizations other than West Broadway Development Corporation. As such, WBDC has no decision-making power in what happens on these lots. However because they are each critical public or potentially public green spaces in the West Broadway neighbourhood, WBDC approached each organization to inquire whether these spaces could be included in the green space community consultations. The community consultation results would then be taken back to the organizations to contribute to further design and possibly development of said green space in order to make them more accessible and attractive to the community, according to community members themselves. WBDC will bring forward the results from the consultations and will work with the organizations to implement common projects. Below are the results from the community consultations that will be taken back to each organization.
Two different groups of feedback are compiled, from three types of community events, to reach the conclusions for each of these properties. The feedback comes in the form of:

1. Votes (Green Space Community Consultation)

2. Comments (Green Space Community Consultation, Green Space/Housing Community Consultation and Green Space Focus Groups)

Details: Broadway Neighbourhood Centre

The Broadway Neighbourhood Centre is home to the largest open green space in the West Broadway neighbourhood; as such it is used by many different user groups, for many different activities, during all seasons of the year. For this reason one focus group was held that was open to all community members, and then a second focus group was held that was targeted specifically for the youth who use the Centre. Participants were very creative regarding the potential use of the site! In addition to suggested changes to increase accessibility participants also wanted to improve what already exists.

The choices that led the discussions were natural playspaces, improvement and enhancement of recreational fields, and community orchards. Coming in tied for fourth were the ideas of year-round use of the ice rink space and community gardens. Due to the size and layout of the green space, many of these options could be achieved together, complementing each other and the activities that can take place. Options not to be forgotten were a compost demonstration site, community gathering space, and updating of the children’s water park to create a splash pad, similar to that at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre in Spence neighbourhood. It’s a lot to accomplish, but again, these activities complement each other and there could be space for all of them.

Top Choices for Broadway Neighbourhood Centre Green Space Use (Including Consultations and Focus Groups):

1. Natural Playspace

2. Recreational Fields

3. Community Orchard

4. Year Round Use of the Ice Rink area, and Community Gardens

5. Community Gathering Space, a Compost Demo Site, and a Children’s Splash Pad

Examples of suggestions for creative use of the space:

- Improve maintenance and enhance the recreational field, used both in winter and summer.

- Create a more user friendly fence around the playing field: plant grapes, vine flowers and sunflowers along the fence, or remove it completely and replace it with a combination of large boulders, fruit or nut trees, low fruit bushes (raspberries, blackberries), blocks of wood or tires or other climbable objects that serve the double purpose of blocking balls and act as natural play objects for youth.

- Create community garden plots around the edges or at the southern end of the recreational field, dependent on light.
and space. This will also bring more “eyes” to the area, increasing safety.

- Build a splash pad to update the current water park. Much safer for children and can be used in the winter as a playspace. The splash pad at the Magnus Eliason Recreational Centre in Spence neighbourhood is an example.

- South of the current play structure create a natural playspace for children. There are already lots of trees, which is a positive feature; a tree fort could even be built. Some community garden plots could be placed along one side to increase “safe eyes”. More lights installed to increase safety of the area at night – very needed. It is convenient because the current play structure is right next to it as well, as is the water park; it sort of becomes a space for younger children.

- More benches and picnic tables placed in strategic places – close to garden plots and near/within playspaces.

- A stage/covered stage with electrical outlets placed for community members to gather, play music, eat together, possibly with a bbq or two (similar to those in Vimy Ridge Park), even a community oven.

- Community notice board.

- Snow hill in the winter.

- Games painted on the cement, interactive art sculptures and public art.

- Tennis courts painted inside the rink during the summer, planters for gardening (using lasagna style gardening would still work ok on cement), basketball court.

- Compost site.

Details: Great West Life

Great West Life owns the stretch of green space along Balmoral Street, between Broadway Avenue and Mostlyn Place. This green space used to be a row of residential homes, which were demolished and replaced with lawns and lilac bushes. Great West Life has an agreement with the City of Winnipeg to maintain this space. Great West Life has informed WBDC that many of the foundations are still intact underground. This will play a role in any design that goes into the space.

Great West Life has indicated interest in receiving a proposal from the community regarding potential development of that space for community use. As a result, we included the Balmoral green space in the green space community consultations to get a better indicator of how the community could see that space being used. This feedback will be proposed to Great West Life for their organization to use in their decision-making, and WBDC hopes to be able to support those decisions and to assist planned changes wherever possible.

The top choice for the Balmoral space was strongly in favour of a community orchard, followed by much support for creating a space that combined a community orchard, natural playspace, and a community gathering place. Luckily these three choices can be very complementary. Suggestions of ways to accomplish this combination included having
a path that wandered through the fruit trees and natural play areas, with benches along the way, and then into a space for gathering. The fruit trees can be climbed and will enhance the natural play areas, while providing fruit and shade for playing and for resting. Suggestions for planting endangered fruit tree species and plants for seed saving could also be implemented. There was also repeated mention to please keep the lilac bushes; they are well loved by community members.

Top Choices for Great West Life Green Space Use (Including Consultations and Focus Groups):

1. Community Orchard
2. Natural Playspace
3. Community Gathering Space
4. A Combination of all three

Examples of suggestions for creative use of the space:

- A trail wandering through the multi-use space.
- Placing the fruit trees strategically where the old yards used to be so that the trees do not have to compete with old foundations.
- Places for kids to play – keep a running space at the north end for local kids to continue to use for kicking soccer balls around or throwing a frisbee.
- Picnic tables, even a table with a checker/chess board set into it.
- A place for older people to sit.
- Space for recreational activities like bocce, horseshoes, lawn bowling.
- Seed Saving Project: Using endangered native seeds for tree species (eg. apples) or incorporating gardening into the chosen spaces.

Details: River Trail

This area of the neighbourhood is owned by the City of Winnipeg. While there are trail groups working to improve active transportation routes in the city, there is currently no stewardship group working exclusively to improve the West Broadway section of the trail. This area was not originally included in the consultations but kept coming up in the discussions, so those comments have been included here. West Broadway Development Corporation would like to recognize that there are multiple groups working on trails, and that it is interested in joining the conversation, both to contribute the feedback from the community as well as to offer support where it is identified as needed.

One need that has been reported back is a role for coordination and pulling together of all of the different groups to move forward on this 0.5 km stretch of trail, from Osborne Street to the small park at the south end of Spence Street. Residents have identified that this riverbank requires attention to turn the mud path into an active transportation network. For example, presently the paved bike trail ends just before the West Broadway boundary. There are no safe access points to the river, and residents wish to have access to the winter Assiniboine River Trail. Safety overall is also a concern. This trail is very important for active transportation connectivity between the downtown and adjacent neighbourhoods.
Examples of suggestions for creative use of the space (based on results from discussions during the green space consultations):

- Improve the River Trail that runs 0.5 kms into the West Broadway neighbourhood, from Osborne Street to the small park at the south end of Spence Street. The managed trail currently stops right at the West Broadway boundary.
- Safe access to the river in summer and in winter.
- A safe bike and walking trail, connect them to the trail from the Forks.
- Extend the maintenance of the trail from Osborne to the end of Spence Street, come up in that small green area.
- Water garden.
- Plant fruit trees among the other trees.
- Put a cycling trailhead just west of the curling rink on Mostlyn Place.
- Bike parking in strategic areas.

West Broadway Development Corporation

Owned and Directed Lots

Summary

The City of Winnipeg has allocated four residential lots to WBDC for infill housing development, and WBDC purchased two residential lots. These lots are the former sites of houses that were demolished. The land use and zoning is for residential housing. As part of the Green Space Planning process, WBDC included these lots in the consultations to ascertain the interest in green space development on these sites. At the same time, WBDC was also conducting an infill housing consultation to gauge the interest in different types of infill housing on these lots. The outcome of these two processes has been approved by the WBDC Board of Directors; please see below for the green space results, and please refer to the Infill Housing Plan for the infill housing details, available by emailing info@westbroadway.mb.ca.

During the consultations community members were encouraged to approach these lots as a whole package, to consider the variety of needs that are encompassed in this neighbourhood, and to seek compromise and cooperation between housing and greening.

Three different groups of feedback are compiled to reach the conclusions for each of these properties. The feedback comes in the form of votes and comments from the:

1. Green Space Community Consultation
2. Green Space/Housing Community Consultation
3. Green Space Focus Groups
There was lot-specific voting at the two consultations, and comments and feedback from all of the focus groups have been incorporated into the summaries and decisions made to date. In addition, trends in comments and feedback have been noted in Other Ideas Provided During the Community Consultations (Section 4) to be potentially included in future discussions and planning.

Participants in all of the consultations and focus groups were encouraged to consider not only these specific lots as they made their decisions, but also the availability and potential of other green spaces, as described in Section One above, Privately and Publicly Owned Lots in West Broadway.

As part of the Green Space Plan, two of the five lots that are directed by WBDC will remain either entirely as green space, or will become a cooperative effort between green housing development and public green space.

**Details: 152 Langside Street**

152 Langside Street, also known as Boulder Park, was overwhelmingly chosen as the lot that should remain entirely green space. There is currently a community garden on this lot, started and led by residents of the area, with significant and ongoing community support for this initiative to continue. Comments indicated interest in maintaining and increasing Boulder Park’s role as a community garden, community gathering space and compost demonstration site.

WBDC and the gardeners will be working together with the City to ensure longer-term stability for the garden, which will continue as a community gardening and community gathering site, with community composting activity.

Top Choices for 152 Langside Street Green Space Use (Including Consultations and Focus Groups):

1. Community Garden

2. Community Gathering Place & Compost Demo Site (tied)

**Details: 128/130 Langside Street**

128/130 Langside Street (double lot) will be a cooperative effort between green housing development and public green space. This double lot was the second highest choice for green space during the green consultations and the first choice for housing during the housing consultations. The goal is a combination multi-unit housing (maximum 3 stories) for those in core housing need and community green space. This reflects the feedback from the consultations for a shared housing/green effort, with the green space becoming a community gathering space combined with natural play space, and possibly some small community garden plots. This will be a unique example of creatively including green space development into infill housing development. The dedicated green space on this lot is part of the Green Space Plan for the neighbourhood.

Top Choices for 128/130 Langside Street Green Space Use (Including Consultations and Focus Groups):

1. Community Gathering Space

2. Natural Playspace
Details: Other WBDC Owned or Directed Lots

The other three WBDC lots, 279 Young Street, 248 Langside Street, and 114 Langside Street, were not nearly as conducive to or as popular for green space but were still considered strong options for green infill housing. This seems partly due to the considerations of the high potential for green space improvement in the Privately and Publicly Owned Lots in West Broadway that have been opened under consideration for publically accessible green space, and partly due to the interest of the housing participants to include options like sustainable building practices and green rooftop gardens, etc, in their development.

For more details on what style of green infill housing will be proposed on each of these sites, based on results from the Housing Consultations, please see the Infill Housing Report, available by contacting info@westbroadway.mb.ca.

Overall Vision for West Broadway

This green space planning process has been considered on two different levels. To begin, specific lots and spaces have been identified as areas that should remain as green space or change; and if they are to remain as green space, what they should look like has been explored. But the larger vision of a sustainable neighbourhood and what that would encompass was also considered and discussed. Below are some of the issues, goals and potential projects that community members included when considering what a Green West Broadway could look like.

- Cycling
  * Bike routes/bike paths
  * Close a street like Langside Street for example, to cars, make it bike-only
  * Extend the closure of Wolseley Street in the summer on Sundays where the whole street is closed, into West Broadway, potentially even connecting it with the river path where it connects at Spence/Osborne
  * Post a cycling trailhead west of the curling rink on Mostlyn Place
  * Install more bike parking
  * Explore other commuting challenges and potential solutions with local cycling groups. Example: Portage bike crossing from West Broadway neighbourhood to University of Winnipeg
WEST BROADWAY GREEN SPACE PLAN

- Composting
  * Neighbourhood composting strategy
  * A working bin on each block
  * Working bins behind each apartment building
  * Distribution among gardeners, residents, neighbourhood groups

- Green Mapping
  * Creating an accessible online and possibly hard copy map of green space in West Broadway to help build knowledge of existing and developing green space
  * To indicate where community members find and value green space
  * To put West Broadway neighbourhood on the broader green map of Winnipeg, currently being discussed with the Eco Network

- Historical/Green Walk
  * Offer walking tours, possibly guided but otherwise with a written guide, to historical houses and spaces in the area
  * Have a green focus: walking tour to pass by the gardens and urban agriculture sites, compost initiatives, new and existing green spaces, green housing developments, other green initiatives of the community

- Street Calming and Reclaiming that are led with green space initiatives
  * Green in the centre of traffic circles
  * Garden boxes in the parking spaces
  * Green/interactive community art pieces
  * Better bike lanes

- Work with the Schools to create/make better use of green space there too
  * Create a “walking bus” for younger children, both for safety and as a sustainable transportation initiative
  * Connect gardeners, teachers and existing green City programming to bring gardening into schoolyards (Eco-Kids, Environmental Youth Corps, Bridging the Gap, etc)
  * Have a school composting site, with residential composting team to aid with education and maintenance
  * Create efficient natural playspace in schoolyards
• Paths that wind through the neighbourhood (especially through green spaces) to encourage walking and cycling, sustainable transportation initiatives

  * Connect with groups already working on these initiatives to support their efforts, for example, Bike to the Future, One Green City, and West Central Commuter Cyclists

• Greenhouse/fresh veggie distribution centre

  * Work with already happening initiatives like the Good Food Club Veggie Van Market

• Facility space for city-wide “White Bike” Program

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**Ideas for the Future**

Participants were enormously creative and enthusiastic, and as they went through discussions, exercises, drawing, and voting, many ideas came forward! Many of the ideas that received wide and strong support have been included in the immediate Plan. However to ensure that other ideas that may not be used immediately are retained, they’ve been listed on the following pages in random order, to potentially inspire and offer direction in the future!
Other creative ideas to potentially inspire and offer direction in the future!

Creative places for kids and even teens to play and be -- Something big kids can do too -- Community gathering places -- A climbing tree -- Organized outdoor programs at BNC, for example skating lessons at the rink -- Turn Langside into a bike path! - Street calming -- Think seasonally so we can make the most of the available space, there’s a lot of winter here! -- Safe fire pits like at FolkFest and Vimy Ridge park bbqs -- Safe access to the river in winter and in summer -- toboggan runs -- “walking” school buses -- green round-abouts to calm traffic, and banners -- hedge mazes -- water plant garden by the river -- fruit trees at the GWL site on Balmoral -- outdoor stage -- Snow hill -- portable skateboard ramps -- berry bushes -- Plum trees -- duck pond -- tire swings and regular swings -- At Klinic add waterfall or fountain -- At the urban farms, soybeans should be grown (1/3 protein compared to beef which is only 1/4 protein) plus they’re very nutritional. -- Greens and kale are good too -- Alfalfa is a perennial and also high in nutritional value. -- A rock pile with water flowing down it -- A water fountain or little waterfall so you can sit down and relax -- Picnic tables -- Blueberries, saskatoons, fruit trees -- Another urban farm in another part of West Broadway -- Balcony gardens like at IRCOM -- Put fruit trees in Spirit Park -- Potential green space at
the double lot on Langside next summer - even if it’s going to be housing after that, do something fun with it next summer! -- More spaces to play outside — ones where we’re allowed to go too, not like the school at the end of Langside -- We like space with lots of trees so that animals can live there and we can climb -- mini-parks being created, with trees, ponds, picnic tables and people playing in them -- local volcano (a local hill might suffice and the imagination could take it from there!) -- More berry bushes (blueberries, strawberries) -- Apple trees -- Rhubarb -- more playspace for kids -- Snow hill -- portable skateboard ramps -- berry bushes -- Gazebo with grape vines -- perennial herb gardens -- water fountain -- Work with schools to create public green space there too -- “I’m willing to share my veggies/flowers, just ask” signs. -- Combining playspace and gardens so that parents can garden, or enjoy the garden while the kids can play an entertain themselves -- It’s mostly about kids -- Rocks and trees in the gardens, even fake ones so that kids can play on them -- more flowers -- Field to play football and ultimate -- Outdoor pool with a wading pool next to it -- Tree houses in the parks or gardens -- Combine trees and gardens, example set the vines or grapevines to climb up the trees instead of on wire...
Bibliography


Please see the Green Space Literature Review (available at www.westbroadway.mb.ca) for more resources about green space.
APPENDIX A:
Map of West Broadway Neighbourhood, Winnipeg Manitoba
West Broadway Development Corp. Green Plan

May 1, 2009

Green Plan Parcels
1. Broadway Neighbourhood Centre
2. 152 Langside Street
3. 128 / 130 Langside Street
4. River Trail
5. Great West Life Balmoral Green