

GREENEST CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
UBC Sustainability Scholars Program, Summer 2018

Research project title

Green Infrastructure in the Flats: Identifying Opportunities for Private Sector Participation

Research supports the following policies -

- Greenest City Action Plan
Specific goal area (s): Green Economy Goal, Lighter Footprint Goal, Access to Nature
- Healthy City Strategy
Specific goal area (s): _____
- Renewable City Action Plan
- Green Operations
- Other: Green Infrastructure Strategy & Integrated Stormwater Management Plan

Outline scope of project and why it is of value to the City and describe how and when the scholar's work will be actionable

1) Build an understanding around site-appropriate green infrastructure opportunities

- Review site types in the Flats (e.g., Low-density industrial, high density mixed-use)
- Research green infrastructure options with applicability to various site types (eg. Green roofs, stormwater swales, biodiversity/habitat patches, smart lighting, solar roads and roofs)
- Apply green infrastructure options to site typologies in the Flats and the Vancouver context to determine which types of interventions might be appropriate for each site type

2) Prioritize Private Sites to Connect to *Walk the Line* Planning Process

- Map sites adjacent to “walk the line” route indicated in the Flats Local Area Plan (LAP)
- Identify site ownership, age of facility, key connection points to conceptual maps of “walk the line”, site size and type, and cultural amenities (both planned and existing)
- Overlay with important contextual maps, including greenways, parks, active transportation corridors, amenities, and population densities
- Determine criteria for evaluating which sites are most critical or highest potential for connecting to “walk the line” in a meaningful way
- Use criteria to prioritize privately owned sites to include in the “walk the line” planning process and reach out to business owners and property owners to gauge interest

3) Identify opportunities to demonstrate local innovation

- Based on high-value green infrastructure opportunities identified, seek out Vancouver startups, design firms, and solution providers that might be interested in participating in the development of “walk the line”
- Develop conceptual design of how these interventions and demonstrations might fit together at various points along the *Walk the Line* trajectory

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/2DC2jpP>

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WHY THIS WORK IS OF VALUE

In May of 2017, City Council unanimously approved a new local area plan and economic development strategy for the False Creek Flats (the Flats). As part of the vision put forward for this central industrial district, the team proposed a major green infrastructure project called “Walk the Line”—an active transportation corridor that roughly follows the former shoreline of False Creek when the Flats was still a tidal mud flat. This loop is envisioned to be a demonstration of innovative green infrastructure, while improving access to the workplaces and cultural amenities in the area (both existing and planned).

This significant piece of infrastructure will connect to a significant number of privately owned sites and facilities. It also has the potential to be a significant demonstration project for new design approaches, technologies, and materials that can improve the environmental and social performance of public space in Vancouver. The goal of this project is to outline the various roles the private sector might play in bringing the vision for this green infrastructure to life.

Engaging the private sector in a meaningful way will be critical to ensuring the “walk the line” green infrastructure project not only meets its goals, but also is done in a way that unites the community rather than creates conflict within the community. The VEC will use this scholars’ work to guide that engagement of the private sector.

FLATS DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE:

- Flats Local Area Plan www.vancouver.ca/falsecreekflats
- Flats Economic Development Strategy www.vancouvereconomic.com/flats

Deliverables

- Summary report of research findings including
 - Multilayer maps of priority private sector sites for connecting to *Walk the Line*
 - Outline of interventions and local innovators that should be considered in implementation of *Walk the Line*
 - Overview of potential impacts of *Walk the Line* interventions on privately owned sites (economic, social, environmental)
 - Appendix outlining business interests and feedback on participating in developing *Walk the Line*
- A public facing final report for the UBC Sustainability Scholars online project library.

Time Commitment

- This project will take **250*** hours to complete.
- This project must be completed between **April 27 and August 10, 2018**
- The scholar is to complete hours between **(9 to 5, Monday to Friday)**, schedule flexible.

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Work location: Vancouver Economic Commission (401 West Georgia Street)

Skill set/background required/preferred

- Excellent research and writing skills.
- Demonstrated interest in green infrastructure development and design
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset.
- Strong presentation and public speaking skills
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to work independently
- Demonstrated time management skills
- Project management and organizational skills
- Familiarity with mapping and design software an asset, including GIS and/or Adobe Creative Suite
- Familiarity with qualitative research methodologies and implementation
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- Comfortable interacting with strangers to conduct public/in person surveys
- Experience working in a professional environment

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