Landscape Concepts

The landscape design is intended to enhance neighbourhood greening and the urban forest and to provide opportunities for access to nature in the form of open spaces and programmed common outdoor amenities such as community gardens/urban agriculture. The design is to be in conformance with Vancouver’s “Greenest City Action Plan”.

Green amenities are provided on site for residents’ use and enjoyment and selectively for the use and enjoyment of neighbours in the “community corner” and along the streetscapes and the lane. Both passive and active outdoor activities are intended and programmed for, in anticipation of a variety of residents’ interests.
Landscape Concepts

1. Tree Retention
Where possible, existing mature trees will be retained and will be complemented with approximately fifty additional deciduous trees to further contribute to the “urban forest” character of the neighbourhood, protect and enhance the streetscape, give structure to the site landscape design, provide canopy for summer shade and define open spaces. In addition, the retained mature trees will “hold the corners” and soften building scale. The site, including adjacent City boulevards, currently hosts a total of approximately sixty trees. The current target for retention is forty-two trees.

2. Outdoor Amenities
To foster a sense of community and ownership, the project will provide at-grade outdoor amenity space for the residents. Amenities at grade will include a “community corner” with a common BBQ patio, outdoor furniture, community garden/urban agriculture, an orchard, children’s play areas, seating nodes, gardens and a public green link. A new pathway network with fixed seating and new children’s play structure for semi-public use will be incorporated into the southwest corner of the site.

3. Defined Spaces & Streetscapes
Private and semi-private space at the street edge and at the lane will be delineated from public and semi-public space by a combination of low walls, hedges, low picket fences, individual unit gates, and planting, achieving a layering of textures. The project will be designed with a “hierarchy of outdoor spaces” to ensure that residents and visitors can easily distinguish among the private, semi-private (areas for the use of residents only), semi-public (accessible to the public but still on-site), and public realms in and around the project.

4. Passive & Active Outdoor Activities
Passive activities on site include strolling and seating and casual interaction in a garden or rooftop context or under the canopy of mature trees. “Hands on” activities on site include community gardens/urban agriculture, composting, and tending the “orchard”. Community activities on site include play and outdoor events such as dining or “club” events at the outdoor patios.

5. Children’s Play Areas
Children of all ages will have easy access to appropriately located, designed and landscaped outdoor play areas suited to their developmental and play needs. The project will provide outdoor play areas for families with children both at grade and at Building B rooftop community garden.

6. Sustainable Food Systems
A range of urban agriculture facilities will be featured throughout the project to promote a sense of community, promote healthy living and facilitate social interaction, collaboration and celebration. These include community garden plots for residents on grade as well as on the rooftop of Building B. Fruiting trees and shrubs are planted to create an Orchard and an “edible” lane in the centre of the site. The opportunity exists to also plant fruit and nut trees at the street boulevards as part of the City’s Greenest City Action Plan and in anticipation of upcoming changes to the city’s “Urban Forest Management Plan”.

7. Bioswales & Rain Gardens
Sustainability is expressed and celebrated in the landscape in the form of bioswales/rain gardens that allow the residents to visually observe the collection, detention and treatment of rainwater.

8. Green Mobility & The Pedestrian Experience
To enhance and reinforce existing pedestrian linkages, a mid-block pedestrian connection between and through the site will be provided. To help provide a safe walking environment for pedestrians, the project will include new low-level pedestrian bollard lighting along the laneway and at the mid-block public link. In addition, the project will improve pedestrian lighting along the site frontages by adding lower light fixtures to the existing streetlamp poles.

9. On-site Bike-Friendly Features
In addition to indoor bicycle facilities, exterior bicycle facilities are planned for the site. Exterior bike racks and a bicycle maintenance station with tools, pump, bike route map and water fountain will be provided on site for community use along the Heather Street Bikeway.
Sustainable Food Systems

A range of urban agriculture facilities will be featured throughout the project to promote a sense of community, promote healthy living and facilitate social interaction, collaboration and celebration. These include community garden plots for residents on grade as well as on the rooftop of Building B. Tool storage and composters are provided for common use at each community gardens/urban agriculture area on site. Fruiting trees and shrubs are planted to create an Orchard and an “edible” lane in the centre of the site. The opportunity also exists to plant fruit and nut trees at the street boulevards as part of the City’s Greenest City Action Plan.

Together, these facilities represent a large portion of a complete local food system that will enable activities including gardening, harvesting, food preparation and preservation, composting, and tending an orchard.
Rooftop Community Garden
A large rooftop community garden is located on Building B for use by all residents. This “intensive” rooftop community garden comprises a common kitchen patio, outdoor dining court with large harvest table, an urban agriculture court with a variety of planters and accessible raised planters, a small tot’s play, arbours, rain barrels, tool storage shed, a greenhouse and composting area.

Community Kitchen
The community kitchen pavilion has full kitchen facilities, washrooms, and storage area. A large patio with moveable tables and chairs for a variety community gardening events – spring planting, harvesting, food preparation and preservation.

Harvest Rainwater for Community Garden
Rainwater is harvested off the roof into storage cisterns for later irrigation use in the community garden.

Green Roofs
Both “intensive” and “extensive” green roofs are incorporated on rooftops to slow run off and reduce heat island effect. Buildings A and C will incorporate “extensive” thin profile green roofs for sustainability reasons and to soften views from above.
Landscape Concepts

It is proposed that garden waste generated from the community gardens and kitchen food scraps will be composted on-site utilizing Rocket Composters. The Rocket uses nature’s own processes and its own clever technology to turn waste into garden compost in just two weeks.
Children of all ages will have easy access to appropriately located, designed and landscaped outdoor play areas suited to their developmental and play needs. The project will provide outdoor and covered play areas and indoor amenities for families with children.

Private and semi-private space at the street edge will be delineated from public space by a combination of low walls, hedges, low picket fences, individual unit gates, and planting, achieving a layering of textures. Fruit trees and shrubs will be planted to create an “edible” lane in the centre of the site.