


GBA+ AND ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

EDMONDS, ROYAL OAK
AND CASCADE HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY PLANS



“Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)” is a systematic method employed by the federal and provincial governments of Canada (and other entities globally) to evaluate systemic inequalities and understand how policies, programs and initiatives may affect diverse groups from an intersectional lens.

The purpose of this attachment is to provide examples of how GBA+ strategies were implemented during the Phase 2 public consultation process and how GBA+ and equity considerations have been applied to various policy directions in the draft community plans for Edmonds, Royal Oak and Cascade Heights.

Actions and directions taken for all community plans

Table 1 and **Table 2** on the next pages list examples of actions and directions that were implemented during all three community planning processes to advance GBA+ and equity considerations through the public consultation process (**Table 1**) as well as through policy directions that were ultimately incorporated as part of the community plan (**Table 2**).

While these lists are not comprehensive, they present practical examples of how GBA+ and equity considerations informed certain key actions or directions during the community planning processes.

Table 1. Public Consultation Process

Action or engagement method implemented	GBA+ and equity considerations
Using a variety of public outreach and notification methods	Various outreach and notification methods, including direct mail-outs, letters, as well as digital and non-digital means of communication, allowed the project team to reach as many members of the public as possible and to include a broad range of community members in the public consultation process.
Using a variety of in-person and virtual engagement methods	The project team remained flexible throughout the community planning process on how they met with members of the public, using both in-person and virtual communication methods, as well as where and when they met with the public. Community members were able to select how they wanted to communicate based on their ability, comfort level, and availability.
Organizing open house events at public locations and convenient times	<p>A series of public open houses were organized and hosted by the City throughout the community planning process. These events were organized at public locations (e.g. community centres) during evening hours, and in a flexible format to accommodate as many community members as possible at their convenience.</p> <p>Those who could not or chose not to attend the open houses were presented with other ways to participate and provide feedback and input, with both in-person and virtual options available.</p>
Facilitating language translation where possible	In recognition of Burnaby’s culturally diverse population, engagement materials (e.g. web content, online surveys) were made available in various languages. Requests for particular staff language speakers to be present at the open house events were accommodated upon request, to the best of the project team’s ability.
Providing flexibility on how to provide feedback and input	The project team was flexible on how feedback and input could be received during the community planning process. This allowed community members to choose from a variety of ways (e.g. in-person, virtual, over the phone, written) to provide their input and feedback on the engagement materials.
Going out to the community to engage, inform and invite participation	<p>During the community planning process, particularly during Phase 1 public consultation, the project team actively engaged with various community-based groups, and went out to the community to attend meetings, gatherings and events upon invitation from these groups to inform them about the community planning process, and to encourage active participation and engagement.</p> <p>This allowed for a more collaborative approach to public consultation and enabled the project team to reach out to community members who were unable to or did not wish to participate through more formal means (e.g. through open houses or online surveys).</p>
Staff training and education	<p>During the community planning process, members of the project team were provided with training on Indigenous cultural safety and competency, as well as training on the principles of GBA+ and how it may be applied to ongoing projects being undertaken by the City.</p> <p>This training equipped staff with various tools and strategies to conduct ongoing work with an improved focus and sensitivity to how municipal policies and practices may be more inclusive and equitable.</p>
Survey demographic questions	At various points of the community planning process, particularly during Phase 2 public consultation, participants and community members engaged had the option to voluntarily provide expanded demographic information through the online survey and other means. This provided the project team with a better understanding of who responded and which perspectives were represented in the consultation results, as well as those that were less represented.

Table 2. Community Plan Policy Directions

Policy direction or strategy included	GBA+ and equity considerations
Support more “missing middle” ground-oriented and low to mid-rise multi-family housing forms	<p>The community plans encourage a diverse range of multi-family housing forms and typologies, including rowhouses, townhouses and low to mid-rise apartments. These forms are sometimes referred to as the “missing middle” as they represent forms in between the single-family dwelling and high-rise apartments that are not as common in many parts of Burnaby.</p> <p>These directions support inclusivity and equity by providing a larger variety of housing options to fit various needs, abilities and preferences of existing and future residents. For example, due to their smaller scale compared to larger and taller tower forms, ground-oriented housing forms such as multiplexes, rowhouses and townhouses, as well as smaller low-rise and mid-rise apartment buildings, may encourage more social interaction and a sense of community amongst its residents. This is important and beneficial for a large number of groups, including newcomers, seniors and young families.</p>
Support more housing near transit stations	<p>The Edmonds and Royal Oak Community Plans prioritize concentrating higher-density housing forms, including market and non-market rental housing forms, close to transit.</p> <p>Concentrating housing and other land uses and services around transit, known commonly as transit-oriented development (TOD), is well-documented as a beneficial strategy for many groups for a variety of reasons. Aside from financial benefits (e.g. from reducing private vehicle ownership or use and using public transit more often), TOD promotes a range of public health and safety benefits by increasing walkability of neighbourhoods and establishing basic needs and services within walking distance.</p>
Flexibility in land uses	<p>The community plans support flexibility in future land uses where feasible, providing more equitable access to employment, housing, and services.</p> <p>In recent years, for example, many religious assemblies in Burnaby have expressed interest in redeveloping or renovating places of worship (e.g. churches, temples) to accommodate special needs housing (e.g. seniors housing) or other types of housing and commercial uses. In alignment with citywide policies, the community plans support these potential future initiatives through appropriate land use policy directions.</p>
Supporting a thriving business and local economy within walking distance	<p>All three community plans identify specific areas where commercial uses may be strategically concentrated to best serve local residents and provide access to basic needs and services within convenient walking distance. These include areas close to transit and along key streets.</p> <p>Other equity-focused strategies are introduced in each of the plans to ensure that in the future, the types of businesses and commercial uses that are established best serve a wide variety of community members. These include supporting neighbourhood commercial businesses offering smaller potential floor areas to encourage the establishment of small businesses (e.g. neighbourhood corner stores, cafes) in residential areas, where feasible.</p>

continued on next page >

Table 2. Community Plan Policy Directions (continued)

Policy direction or strategy included	GBA+ and equity considerations
Aging in place	<p>The community plans include housing strategies and policy directions to encourage home designs and options to accommodate ageing in place.</p> <p>The ability for residents to age in place if they choose to do so is an important consideration for all communities in Burnaby, as seniors are commonly recognized as a more vulnerable demographic group due to various factors including reduced mobility and reduced income after retirement.</p>
Family-oriented housing	<p>Burnaby’s Housing Needs Report identifies the City’s housing needs looking into the future, including types and sizes of dwelling units needed to accommodate families. The community plans include policy direction to encourage family-oriented housing in new developments, in line with the Housing Needs Report.</p>
Community amenities and services	<p>Equitable access to a range of community amenities and services is crucial to form a complete community. Each community plan focuses on context-specific strategies to encourage the growth of amenities and services that can be easily, conveniently and safely accessed by all residents.</p> <p>Through flexible land use policy direction, the plans support establishing childcare facilities and other critical services that are in demand and will be required in greater numbers and capacity as each community grows.</p>
Expanding parks and open spaces, and creating a neighbourhood-wide walking/cycling loop	<p>Equitable access to high quality natural and green spaces becomes increasingly crucial as communities welcome more residents and land becomes increasingly scarce due to urban development and population growth. Each community plan envisions locations where new or expanded park spaces and other types of blue-green spaces (e.g. trails, mid-block green connections) may be distributed, and how they may be programmed and designed to achieve equitable access to these spaces for all.</p> <p>One of the key strategies identified in all three plans is to create a neighbourhood-wide walking and cycling loop, consisting of these expanded public spaces, that is close and accessible for all residents.</p>

Edmonds Community Plan

Table 3 presents examples of how GBA+ and equity considerations informed policy directions specific to the Edmonds Community Plan.

Table 3. Edmonds Community Plan Policy Directions

Policy direction or strategy included	GBA+ and equity considerations
Rental housing renewal	<p>Although present in the other communities as well, Edmonds is home to a large existing purpose-built rental housing stock. As redevelopment occurs in the future, the Edmonds Plan highlights the importance of housing policies such as the Tenant Assistance Policy (TAP) and rental replacement regulations in the Zoning Bylaw in mitigating the impacts of tenant displacement due to redevelopment and providing options for residents to stay in their communities.</p>
“Rental Only” Land Use Designation	<p>Several areas are designated in the Edmonds Plan as “Rental Only” sites, meaning that only market or non-market rental housing tenures would be supported through future development. This “Rental Only” designation is intended to encourage rental housing development projects in strategic areas, including lands that are currently publicly-owned, proximate to transit and/or lands where the city supports additional housing options for specific population groups (e.g. seniors housing).</p> <p>The Edmonds Plan, once adopted, will be the first community plan in Burnaby to designate “Rental Only” sites as part of its land use framework, and will support more equitable housing choices in the community.</p>
Encouraging small business spaces	<p>During the community planning process, many residents noted that it was important to continue supporting small businesses as redevelopment occurs in the future. Many existing small businesses in Edmonds serve the community’s diverse population by providing culturally-specific goods and services.</p> <p>Part 5 of the Edmonds Plan includes strategies and policy directions for supporting and helping to maintain and enhance a culturally diverse and inclusive community in Edmonds.</p>
New school sites	<p>The consideration of new school sites is important as the community grows, to ensure equitable distribution of educational resources throughout Burnaby. As part of the Edmonds Plan and other policies, the City will continue to work with the Burnaby School District to identify potential new school resources that will be required in Edmonds in the future.</p>

Royal Oak Community Plan

Table 4 presents examples of how GBA+ and equity considerations informed policy directions specific to the Royal Oak Community Plan.

Table 4. Royal Oak Community Plan Policy Directions

Policy direction or strategy included	GBA+ and equity considerations
Supporting future upgrades to the BC Parkway and Highland Park Line	<p>During the community planning process, many residents expressed the need to enhance and activate the BC Parkway and Highland Park Line to improve safety and comfort, access and usability. These urban trails already serve as key pedestrian and cyclist routes connecting Royal Oak to Edmonds and Metrotown and various SkyTrain stations. The Royal Oak Plan includes policies to enhance these trails with features such as consistent lighting, wayfinding elements, seating, and more, to provide inclusive and equitable access and useability for all.</p>
Beresford Brewery Row and Creative Employment Areas	<p>The Royal Oak Plan proposes the establishment of a Brewery Row/District along Beresford Street between Merritt Avenue and Curragh Avenue. Brewery rows/districts create community-wide benefits for various local businesses (craft/small-batch breweries, food trucks, mobile businesses etc.) and other groups by creating a unique social gathering place. The Plan includes strategies for street closure and design that will enhance synergies between this space and adjacent open spaces. allowing for a comfortable, accessible and activated brewery row.</p> <p>The Beresford Brewery Row is part of a larger strategy in the Royal Oak Plan to preserve and enhance creative employment areas where light industrial uses currently exist. These types of uses present various employment opportunities and a unique set of businesses and services that the community can access, which may be lacking in many other parts of Burnaby.</p>

Cascade Heights Community Plan

Table 5 presents examples of how GBA+ and equity considerations informed policy directions specific to the Cascade Heights Community Plan.

Table 5. Cascade Heights Community Plan Policy Directions

Policy direction or strategy included	GBA+ and equity considerations
<p>Working with Fraser Health Authority (FHA) and the Burnaby Hospital to create land use synergies</p>	<p>The Cascade Heights community has a unique opportunity to serve as a key hub for health and wellness-related services due to the presence of the Burnaby Hospital.</p> <p>The plan supports policy direction to explore and establish future synergies between hospital operations and surrounding land uses (e.g. through the encouragement of hospital staff housing, medical offices and various health and wellness services and businesses) that will provide better access to these uses for local residents as well as the broader community, and to generate a range of employment opportunities.</p>
<p>Sunset Street village centre</p>	<p>The Cascade Heights plan provides Sunset Street with a unique opportunity to evolve as a special place characterized and activated by ground-level commercial uses, a concentration of local housing options, services and amenities, and an enhanced public realm that residents would benefit from and enjoy.</p> <p>This area will continue to be a key focal point for demonstrating how equitable land use and placemaking strategies can be applied in a smaller-scale neighbourhood context.</p>

Burnaby.ca/YourVoice

THIS IS >>>
CLIMATE
ACTION

