

PART 2

CONTEXT AND HISTORY



2.1 Community Plan Area Boundary

Figure 4 below outlines the plan area boundary, or the geographical scope, of the Edmonds Plan. The area is bounded generally by Imperial Street to the north, Canada Way to the east, 10th Avenue to the south, and Gilley Avenue/Marine Drive to the west. All lands within the plan area boundary are considered part of Edmonds under which future directions and strategies around land use and development, public space and

mobility, and housing and community building will be considered in the wider context of the Edmonds community.

The City will continue to work with Metro Vancouver as needed to align both agencies' understanding and interpretation of the Edmonds plan area boundary, to ensure consistency in future data tracking of key information such as population and housing growth and trends.



Figure 4. Plan Area Boundary

2.2 Community Plan Context

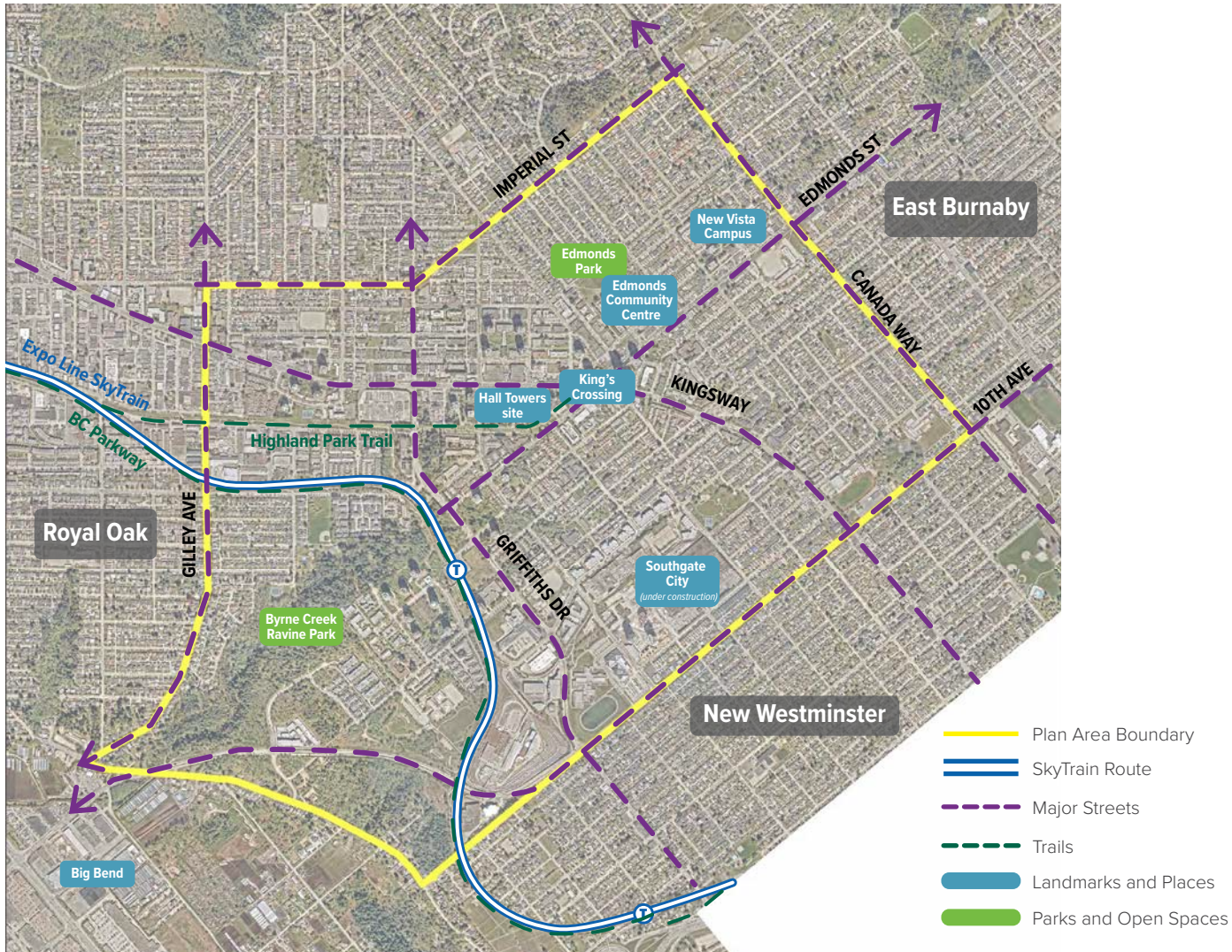
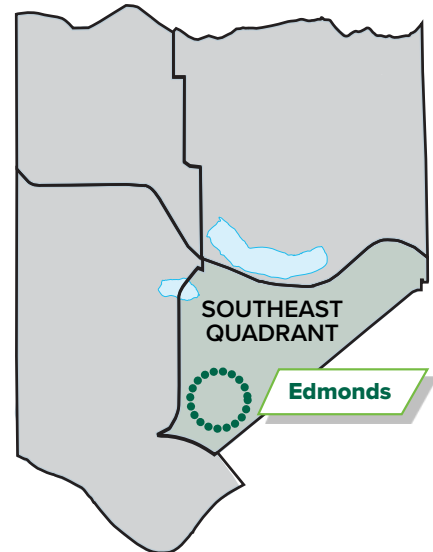


Figure 5. Edmonds Context

Figure 5 above shows the surrounding context of Edmonds. The community is located in the southeast quadrant of Burnaby and is surrounded by the Royal Oak community to the west/northwest, the City of New Westminister to the southeast, the Big Bend area to the south and East Burnaby further east.

The context of Edmonds and many of its existing features and connections will continue to play a critical role in shaping the future of this community.



2.3 History and Heritage of Edmonds

For generations, the rich resources of these lands have been accessed by hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ and Sḵwx̓wú7mesh Sníchim speaking peoples. Today, their descendants continue to live in Burnaby and the adjacent municipalities that developed within their traditional ancestral and unceded territories.

Trails to transit: transportation shaped the development of Edmonds

The Edmonds neighbourhood was built around transportation corridors, including Douglas Road (Canada Way) and Kingsway, which have their origin as Indigenous trails used for thousands of years by hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ and Sḵwx̓wú7mesh Sníchim speaking peoples.



Edmonds neighbourhood homes and gardens in 1911, north of Kingsway. Edmonds Street is the road that can be seen in the background.



Farmers loading berries onto an interurban freight car at the Douglas Road Station (located at present-day Canada Way and Edmonds Street) in 1894. City of Burnaby Archives, 477-938

Intersections: early development happened in places where transportation corridors crossed

The Kingsway and Edmonds Street intersection became an important core in Burnaby in the early 20th century. It served as a commercial and administrative centre and as a transportation hub.



Edmonds Triangle Block, 1911 (looking north down Edmonds Street). City of Burnaby Archives 449-006. A landmark "flatiron" style building was constructed on the north-east corner of Kingsway and Edmonds Street.



Burnaby's second municipal hall, constructed in 1911 near Kingsway and Edmonds Street. City of Burnaby Archives, 032-001

Building community:
the post-war era brought
social infrastructure and
more cultural diversity to
Edmonds

Big changes came to Edmonds after the Second World War, including the closing of the interurban tram's passenger service in 1953 and Burnaby's Municipal Hall moving to central Burnaby in 1956.



Social housing for seniors was constructed by the New Vista Society on Vista Crescent in the late 1940s. City of Burnaby Archives 514-005



The Yangtze Market at the corner of Edmonds Street and Humphries Avenue in 1976, City of Burnaby Archives 556-160. Edmonds Street was the chosen home of many new community members who supported shops and institutions consistent with their cultural origins.

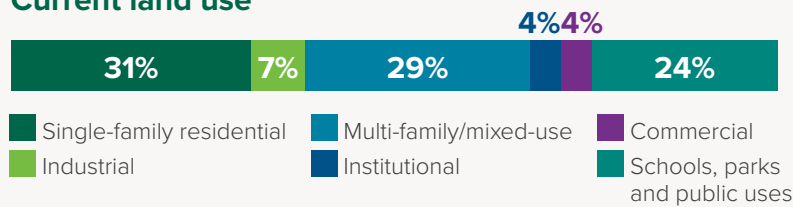
The Edmonds Plan provides policy directions to preserve and enhance various heritage assets as part of the mid to long-term future and to continue to highlight the neighbourhood's diverse history through various placemaking* and community building strategies. See [Section 5.3](#) for more details.

2.4 Community Snapshot

Edmonds is one of the most diverse neighbourhoods in Burnaby with a dynamic mix of residents of all ages, income levels and backgrounds. It also benefits from a large network of open spaces and a rich history as Burnaby’s original downtown. See a snapshot of the community below.

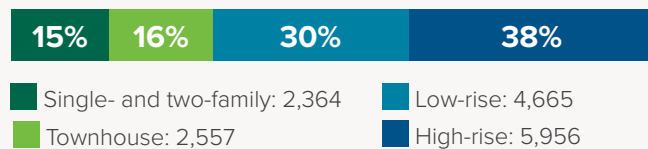
Existing Land Uses and Housing

Current land use



Source: 2024 City of Burnaby

Housing by type



Source: 2023 City of Burnaby, unit counts

Demographics

Population

35,849 (14% of Burnaby’s population)

Source: 2021 Census Data

Languages spoken at home

42% of residents spoke a language other than English at home

Source: 2021 Census Data

Transportation



Kingsway, Griffiths Drive and Edmonds Street are the major vehicle routes through Edmonds



The Highland Park Line is a pedestrian and cycling trail that runs through the Edmonds community



Existing public transit allows for travel from Edmonds to Royal Oak, Metrotown, Vancouver, New Westminster and Surrey in 30 minutes

Community Amenities & Open Space



Edmonds consists of a variety of parks and trails such as Byrne Creek Ravine Park, Ron McLean Park, Ernie Winch Park, Edmonds Park, Taylor Park, 14th Avenue Park, Stride Avenue School Park, Poplar Park, Powerhouse Park, Rene Memorial Park and Burnaby South Memorial Park



Community facilities include the Tommy Douglas Library, the Edmonds Resource Centre, Rosemary Brown Recreation Centre and Edmonds Community Centre



Taylor Park Elementary, Twelfth Avenue Elementary, Edmonds Elementary, Stride Avenue Community and Byrne Creek Community Schools are all within Edmonds