



11/02/2022

Keeping Downtown Cool: Greenspace and heat management

Presenter: Cullen Bird

Nov. 2, 2022

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Proposal

- ▶ That the Committee seriously consider how creating urban greenspaces can help control heat and improve quality of life to create a truly vibrant central downtown.

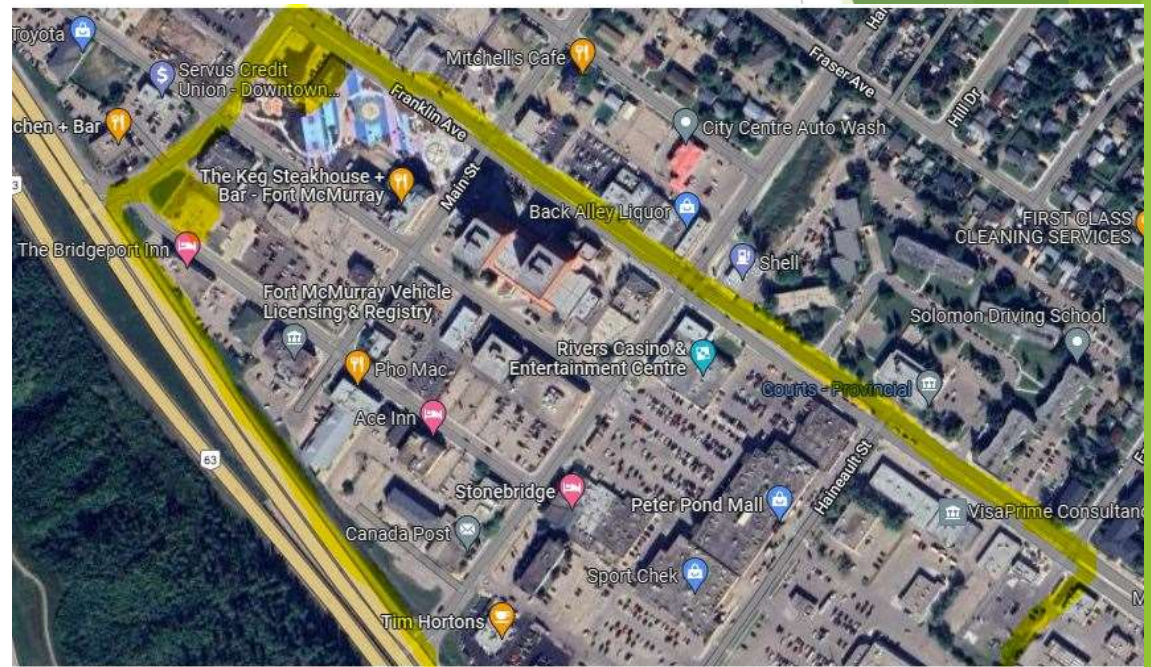
Why spend time downtown?

- ▶ It's where you live
- ▶ It's where you work
- ▶ Transportation hub
- ▶ Recreation
- ▶ Government services
- ▶ Amenities



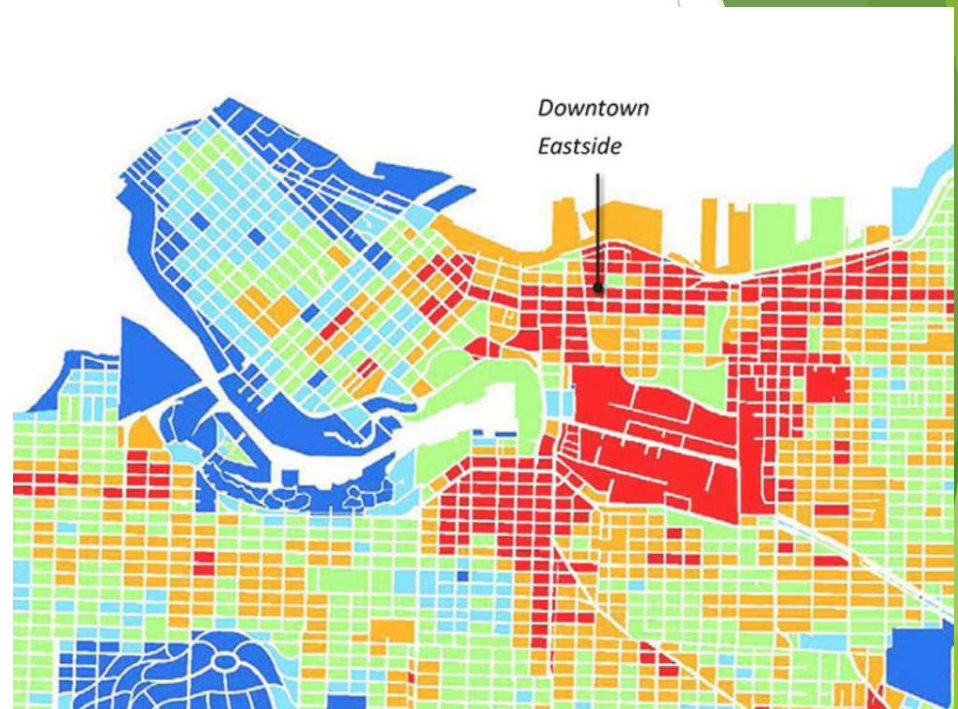
Barriers to staying downtown

- ▶ Hot, dry and dusty in summer
- ▶ Open and windy in winter
- ▶ Very little shade, shelter and few windbreaks
- ▶ You have done what you came to do, but do you want to hang around?



A hot downtown is not a lively one

- ▶ Summer 2021 was HOT (40 degree high!)
- ▶ Pavement radiates heat – greenspace negates it
- ▶ Heatmap of downtown Vancouver (source: Urban Forest Strategy – 2018 update)
- ▶ Red is 42-49, blue < 36





Back to the past: Greenspace benefits

Source: A History of Fort McMurray and North Eastern Alberta Facebook Group

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Creating greenspace creates opportunity

Many studies have found that urban green space:

- ▶ Increases air quality
- ▶ Reduces urban heat
- ▶ Increases mental & physical well-being
- ▶ Reduces noise
- ▶ Increases foot traffic
- ▶ Means cooler buildings
- ▶ Increases property value
- ▶ Improves staff morale

Downtown needs to be cool, welcoming and walkable.

- ▶ Greenspace makes the heart grow fonder
- ▶ Greenspace provides a reason for people to linger
- ▶ More foot traffic means more customers





Morrison & Biggs lawn & parking lot

Already green, parking lot section for expansion, low impact



Morrison & Franklin Lot

Adds greenspace & heat reduction in key location

Addressing greenspace concerns

Security and line of sight

- ▶ FireSmart 3-metre gaps will ensure line of sight
- ▶ Greenspace attracts the public – increases passive, benign surveillance

Cost and maintenance

- ▶ Planting a tree means committing to care for it
- ▶ Saplings need to be watered, planted at right time in the season
- ▶ Die-offs need to be replaced



The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.

- Chinese proverb



Thank you for your time

Let's keep downtown cool!



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