

Country Lane Report Back & Local Improvement Procedure By-Law Updates

April 10, 2024



1. Country Lanes Motion Report Back

- **Recommendation:** Offset the impacts of impervious area from new laneway paving with green rainwater infrastructure (GRI)
- **Presenter:** Robb Lukes, Branch Manager of Green Infrastructure Implementation

2. Local Improvement Program Updates

- **Recommendation:** Recover 100% of LI project costs from benefitting property owners for residential laneway paving and other LI streets projects
- **Presenter:** Joyce Lee, Branch Manager of Streets Design

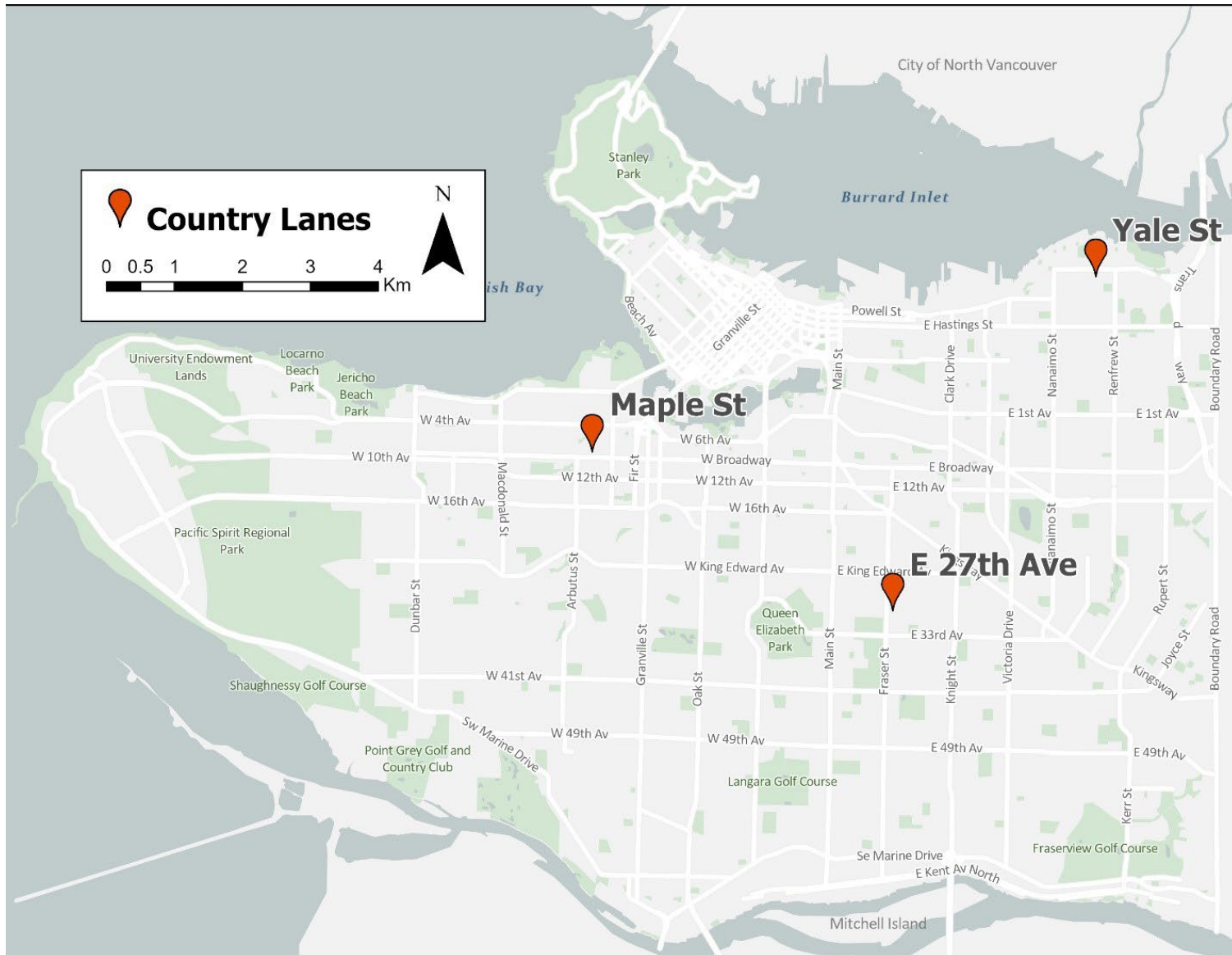
Country Lanes Report Back & Rainwater Management for Laneways

Mitigate the Impact of Laneways

- Over 700 km of laneway in the city
- A typical block of laneway is 800 sq meters and produces:
 - 1.2M liters of rainwater runoff annually;
 - 450 lbs of runoff sediment to sewers annually;
 - Worsens performance for sewers already strained due to climate change.



Country Lanes (Un)Paving the Way

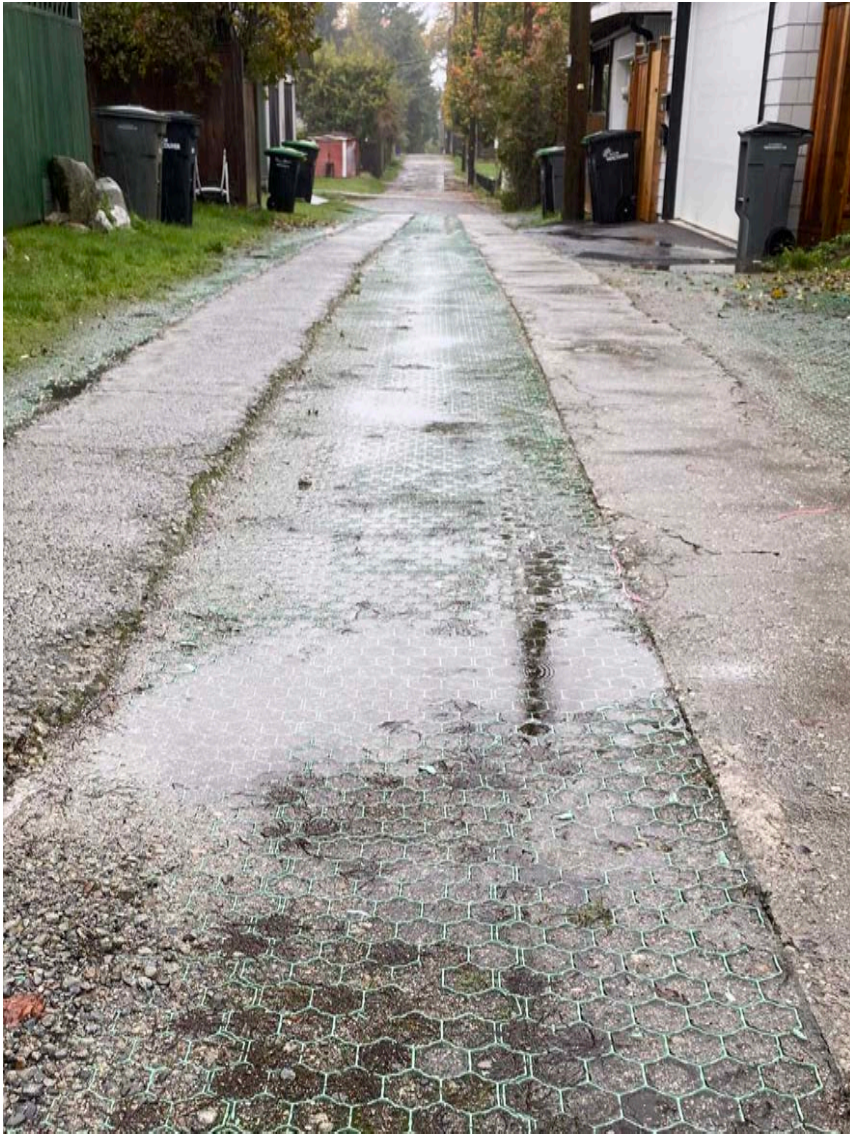


Country Lanes (Un)Paving the Way



- Achieved their goals:
 - Reduced urban heat island
 - Added green space
 - Engaged the community
 - Retained rainfall initially
- Forerunner for other green infrastructure design types and ultimately the Rain City Strategy

Barriers to Implementing More Country Lanes



- Cost more than double the cost of standard paving to construct
- Early surface deterioration
- Challenging environment to keep vegetation alive
- Reduced rainfall retention overtime
- Complex and costly to maintenance

Green Rainwater Infrastructure (GRI) Alternatives for Laneways

Porous Asphalt (2011)

Tupper Laneway b/w
Tupper St and Ash St.,
north of 19th Ave.



Dry wells (2021/2023)

Hastings-Sunrise
Neighbourhood,
multiple sites.



Infiltration trench (2022)

Harriet Laneway b/w E
28th Ave and E 30th
Ave.



Country Lanes Motion: Next Steps

- Incorporate GRI into all laneway projects where feasible
- Continue to pilot GRI laneway options that maximize benefits and improve cost effectiveness
- Achieve other social and livability benefits by investing in locations that will be accessed by the broader public



Local Improvement Program

- Established in the 1960s
- Responsible for majority of residential laneways
- Current common LI project types are lane paving, lane lighting, and speed humps
- Petition process with 2/3 support, with costs recovered from the benefitting owners

Lane Paving Before/After



City's 30% cost-share requirement for laneways contributes to long wait times:

- Current wait time for a lane paving petition is 10 years
- No dedicated capital budget for lane paving, \$200K allocated annually out of Local Roads budget
- The local road network pavement condition continues to deteriorate at current funding levels
- This budget allows for paving ~4 blocks of laneway annually
- Approximately 150 laneway requests in the queue

Summary of Updates to LI Program

- All improvements to be 100% property-owner funded, including existing requests
 - Consistent with other Lower Mainland and Canadian municipalities
- Intake as many petitions as requested, on an annual cycle
- Expand the LI program to allow more types of street improvements to be requested
- Successful property owner petition is still required to move projects forward



Financial Implication Example

Avg cost for 1 block of conventional lane paving	\$195,000
Avg # of benefiting properties	30

	Current LI By-law	Proposed LI By-law	
	Asphalt	Asphalt	Asphalt + GRI
Annual cost per property owner (15 yr amortization)	\$440	\$630	\$790-880

Moving to 100% property-owned funded can:

- Address the 150 lane requests backlog within 3-5 years (external construction delivery)
- Continue to intake new requests
- Future state - construct new requests within 2-3 years after petition initiated

Approval of report recommendations would:

- Better customer service – eliminate LI request backlog & provide more timely petitions moving forward
- Allow limited capital funds to be directed toward other Local Roads projects
- Improve the management of rainwater runoff from laneways
- Support the City's climate change adaptation goals

Questions & Comments