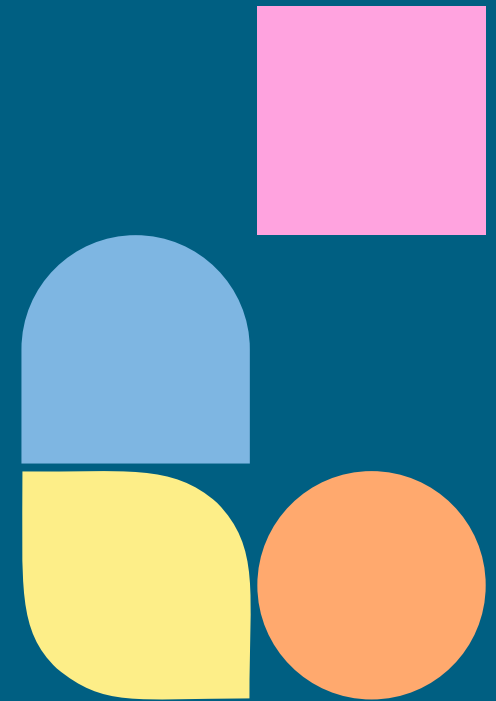


COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS NETWORK

How to Build a Public Space Inventory

National Webinar

August 20, 2024



Land and First Peoples

The sacred lands upon which Evergreen operates, and the built communities and cities across the country, are the traditional territories and homelands of the respective First Nations, Métis Nations and Inuit who are the long-time stewards of these lands.

Evergreen's head office is located in Tkaronto, on Treaty 13 territory and nestled into the banks of the Waasayishkodenayosh / Wonscotonach (Waw-sco-taw-NAWSH) or Lower Don River.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to work within this territory and to share the gifts of this land with the community.



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introduction
- Resource Highlight - Building Better Public Spaces: A Toolkit to Create a Public Space Inventory
- Presentation Panel:
 - **Mitchell Reardon**, Director of Urban Planning, Happy Cities
 - **Alistair Ozon**, Water Coordinator, City of Charlottetown
- Question & Answer Period
- Wrap - Up

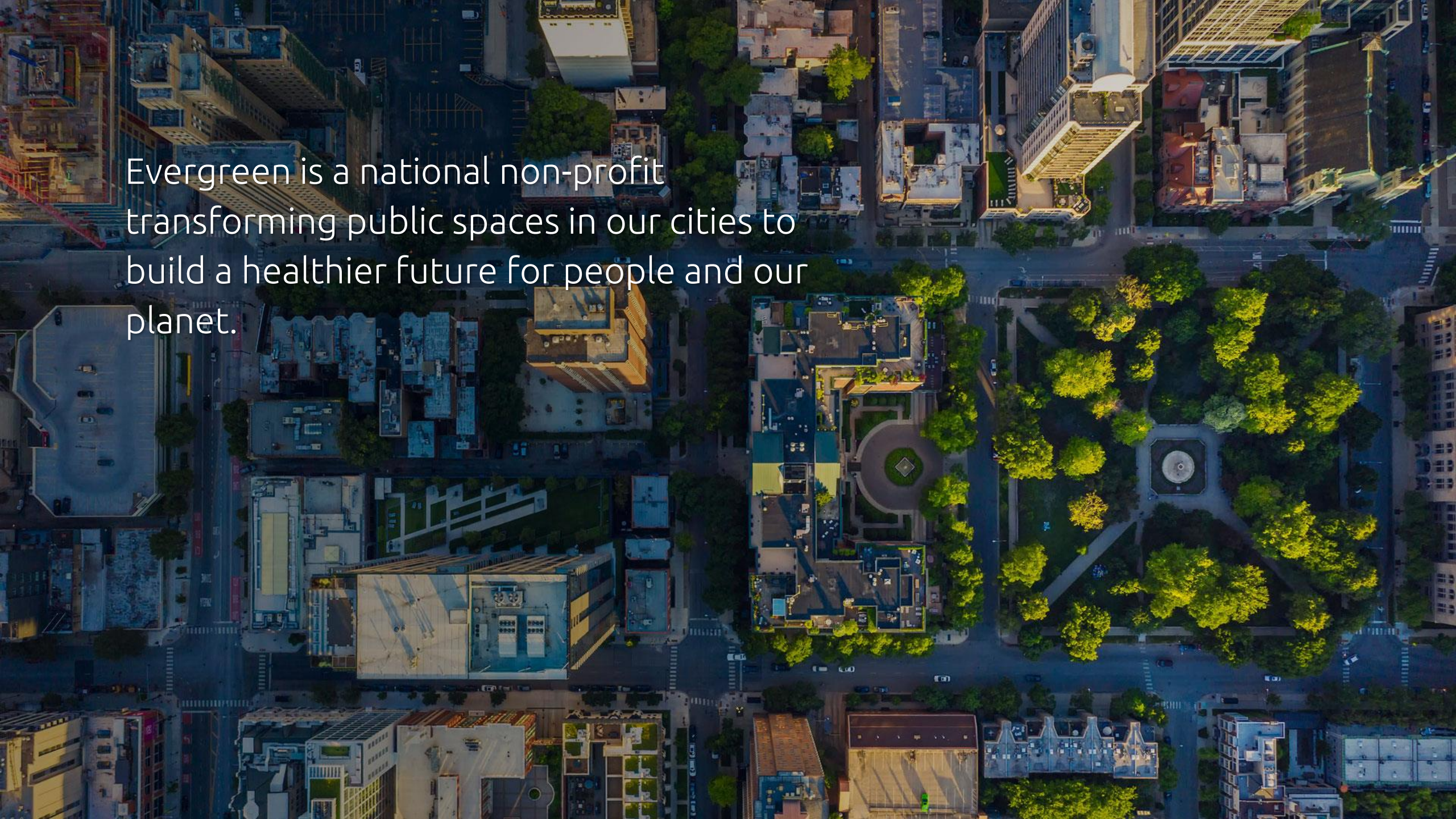
SPEAKERS



Mitchell Reardon
Director of Urban
Planning, Happy
Cities



Alistair Ozon
Water Coordinator,
City of
Charlottetown

An aerial photograph of a city street grid. The streets are dark and mostly empty, with some cars visible. The buildings are mostly multi-story, with various roof colors and styles. In the center of the grid, there is a large, rectangular park area. The park is filled with green trees and has a circular path in the middle. The text "Evergreen is a national non-profit transforming public spaces in our cities to build a healthier future for people and our planet." is overlaid on the left side of the image, in a white, sans-serif font.

Evergreen is a national non-profit transforming public spaces in our cities to build a healthier future for people and our planet.

Evergreen Brick Works is an example and a showcase of how that comes to life and is made possible.



About Our Program

The Community Solutions Network is a program led by Evergreen in partnership with Open North.

Our team works with communities to build capacity and improve the lives of residents using data and connected technology approaches.



Community Advisory Services



Delivered by partner Open North

Open North provides advisory services and a community of practice to support municipalities and Indigenous communities in the digital transformation space.

The Community Solutions Network is offering data governance assessments to municipalities and communities across Canada with **no-cost to participate.**



EVERGREEN COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS ACROSS CANADA

- ENGAGED COMMUNITIES
- EVENT PARTICIPATION
- NETWORK ENGAGEMENTS
(PROV-MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS, etc.)
- ADVISORY SERVICES DELIVERED
- ONLINE ENGAGEMENTS



50+
IN-PERSON,
VIRTUAL & HYBRID
EVENTS ACROSS
CANADA

525+
MUNICIPALITIES &
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

450+
PARTNERSHIPS & STAKEHOLDER
ENGAGEMENTS

3,500+
NATIONAL SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS

225K+
ONLINE ENGAGEMENTS
(SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER, etc.)

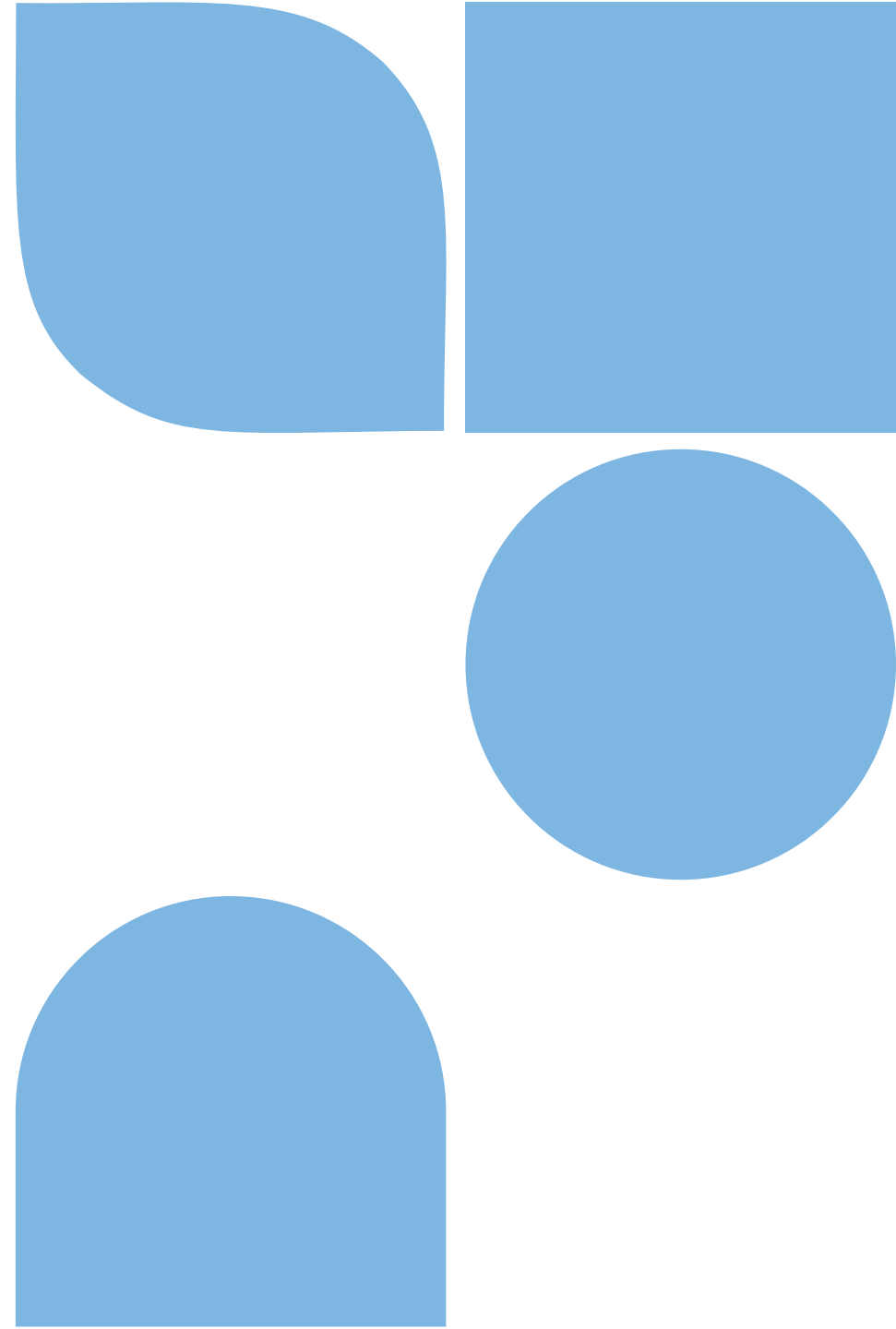
What We Do

1

We make information about community innovation and data and technology approaches accessible to everyone.

2

We help communities talk to the right people and find the right partners.



Resources & Tools

We produce
toolkits,
research briefs
and more



Virtual Events



Our events are for municipalities, Indigenous communities, municipal networks, academics, and subject-matter experts.

Event presenters and participants share information and ask how to best use data, tools and processes to advance action on emerging issues such as climate resilience.



BUILDING BETTER PUBLIC SPACES :

A toolkit to create a Public Space Inventory

A toolkit created by the Community Solutions Network



About the Toolkit

This toolkit is the first step in building a public space inventory. It was designed to enable communities in Canada to understand which places are considered public land, how people are using public spaces and to identify ways to evaluate and prioritize investments.

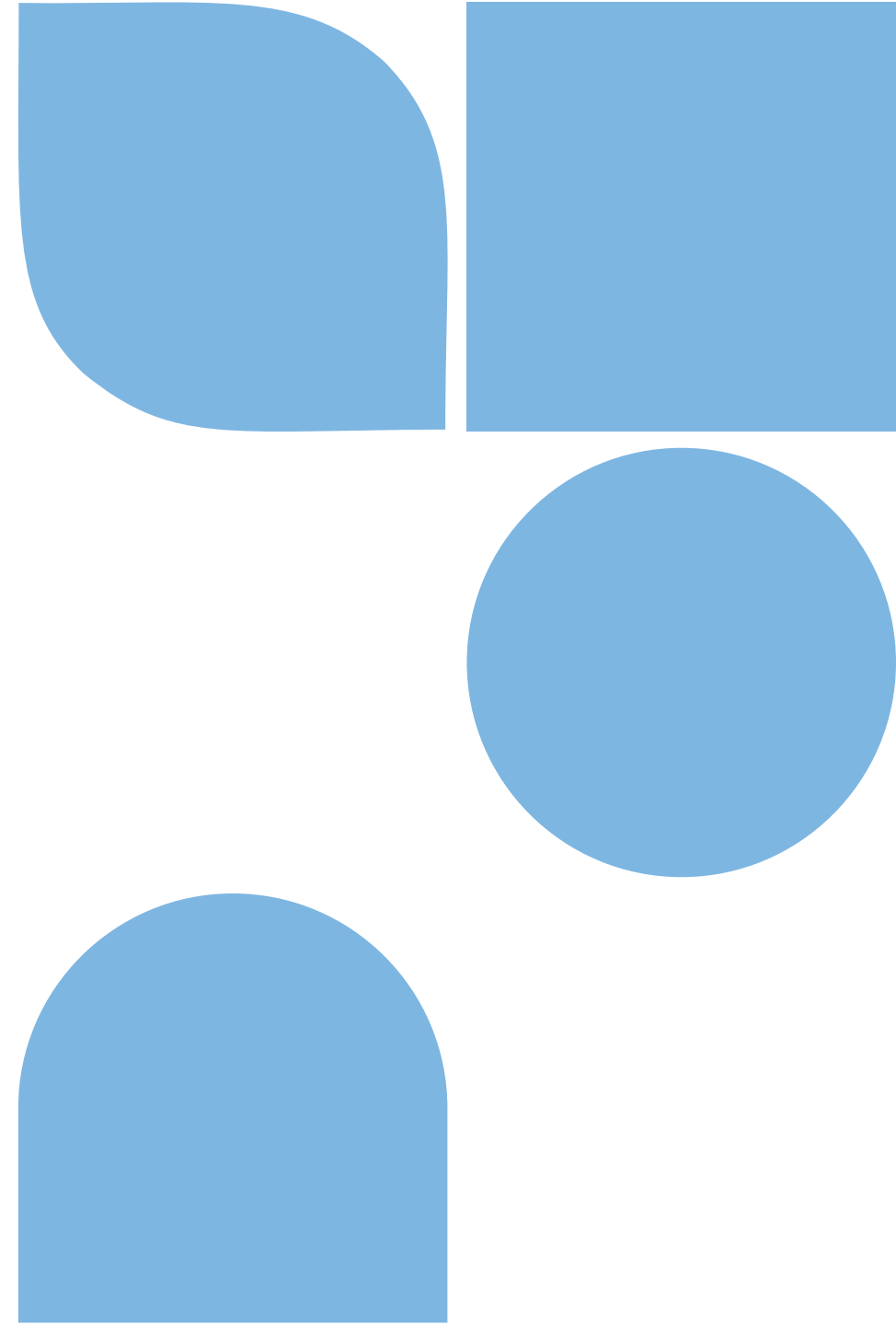
Emerging Themes

1

Green public spaces are essential for physical and mental wellbeing, climate resilience, and social cohesion.

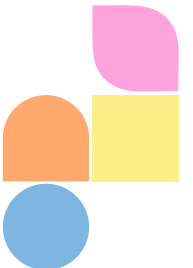
2

Increasingly, data and technology tools are being used by public place managers to track and evaluate impacts. Investing in efforts to compile a detailed inventory of public spaces would yield numerous benefits.



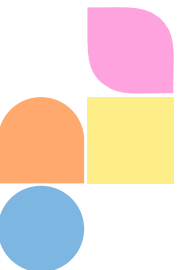
Community Benefits of a Public Space Inventory

- A comprehensive understanding of the greater network and distribution, as well as accessibility, quantity and quality of individual public spaces.
- Support in the development of a comprehensive, evidence based public space strategy or policy.
- Efficient coordination across public and non-public actors in planning community public space networks.
- Capacity building for community leaders and partners to proactively assess public spaces while ensuring community priorities are being met.



Who Should Use this Toolkit?

- Municipalities and Indigenous Community Leaders. Particularly staff members who work on:
 - Urban Planning
 - Parks and Recreation Teams
 - GIS and Data Teams
 - Climate Resilience and Environmental Conservation
- Agencies and community associations that support in adopting local climate resilience and public space development/stewardship.



Tool 1: Approaches to Public Space Inventory Data

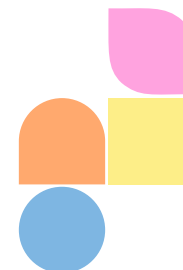
Author: Andrew Pask, Vancouver Public Space Network



Five Methodologies to Follow

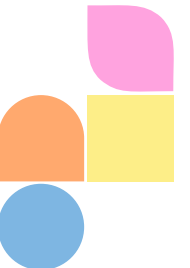
Guidance from the Downtown Vancouver Public Space Inventory on approaching the following methodologies of creating an inventory.

1. Identifying Inventory Objectives.
2. Identifying Public Space Typologies
3. Gathering Data
4. Cleaning and Analyzing Data
5. Publishing Data



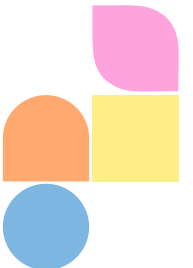
Tips and Guidance to Frame Development

1. A Good Inventory Process is Never Complete
 - Keep the existing dataset up to date.
 - Deepen the inventory to build more features.
 - Expand the geographic scope of your inventory.
2. Your Inventory is an Opportunity for Engagement and Community Building!



Case Study: Happy Cities – Understanding What Makes a High Quality Public Space!

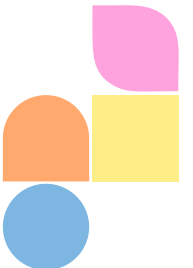
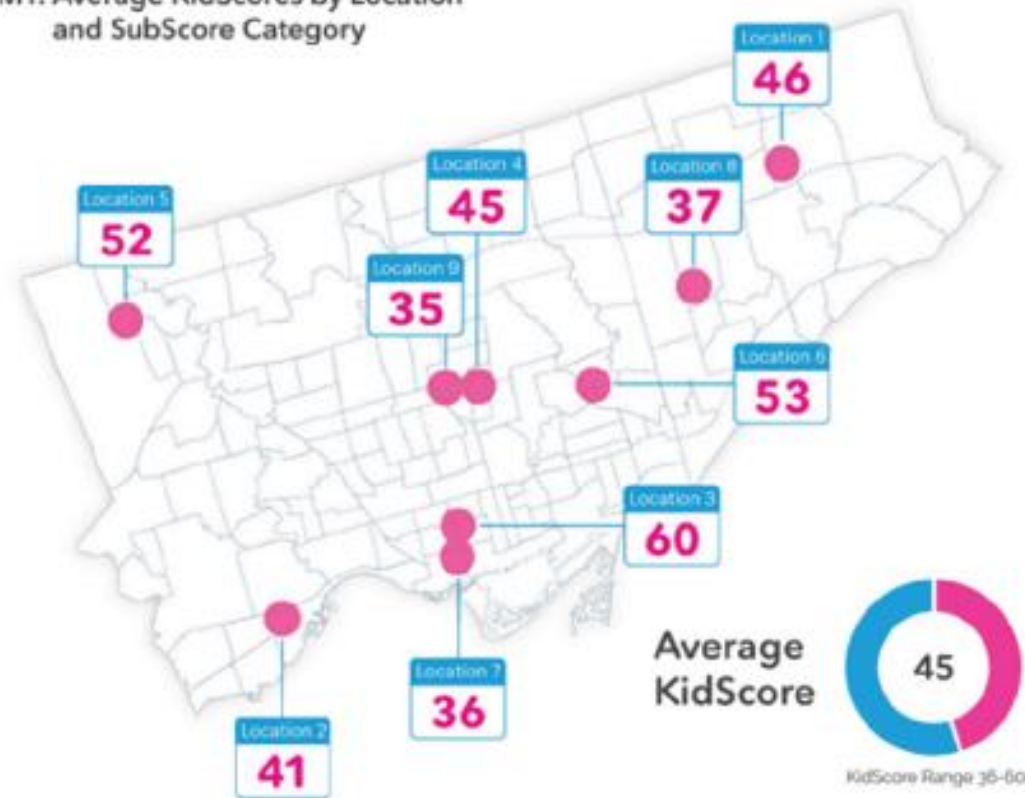
Indicators of the quality of public spaces include:	High quality public spaces include:
Eating: • Often indicates people are comfortable in a space • Requires a certain level of cleanliness/sanitation • Frequently a choice to sit at the location • If in a group setting, indicates attraction to the space (or absence of other suitable locations) Laughing: • Suggests comfort, welcomeness and inclusion in a space • People have either chosen to meet at the space, or are interacting with strangers – both positive indicators of the quality of a space Looking at phone: • Meaning can differ based on location (ie. lunch setting for daytime workers or meeting space vs. setting that should encourage sociability), but in spaces that should be social, it suggests lack of stimulation/triangulation – not enough to keep conversations going • Typically, large numbers of people looking at their phones is an indicator of poorer quality public space Selfies: • Sense of welcomeness and/or including in a space • Pride in place – people want to be seen there Duration of Visit: • How long people stay in the space	• Colourful treatment, such as ground and/or wall murals and planters • Natural materials (wooden benches and tables) • Tiered seating • Presence of trees or greenery • Community fingerprints (indications that a space is created or cared for by people who use it, rather than simply professionals). These include community murals, community gardens, little libraries, or local programming • Shade • Cohesive design elements • Water fountains. Bathrooms where suitable • Presence of variety of points of interest that appeal to a range of people • Regular programming • Public art • Presence of and support from nearby businesses (maintenance of the space, access to washrooms) • Hearing loops to improve auditory experience for people with hearing impairments • Wheelchair accessible tables • Local stewardship (involving local street-involved residents is often a good practice) • Specific features that reflect the needs and interests of nearby residents



Case Study: Maximum City - KidScore

KidScore Maps:

M1. Average KidScores by Location and SubScore Category



Tool 2: Framework to Develop a Public Realm Inventory Application

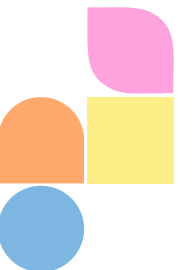


From Method to Application

After creating a strategy for collecting data for a public space inventory in Tool 1, the next step is determining the ideal way to sort and present your findings in an easy-to-use application.

This tool highlights the key components needed to create an open and accessible inventory database of public realm assets within your community.

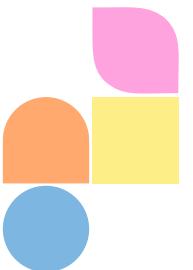
If you could think of further items to add into this guided process, please feel free to contribute them into our chat!



A. Before Displaying Data Openly

Prior to creating a publicly accessible inventory tool, determine your community's values and best practices related to displaying open data and community information. This section will guide you on how to:

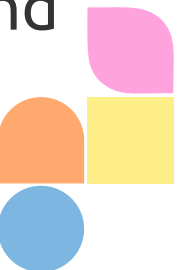
- Establish and/or revise your community's values on public space or official community public space strategy.
- Create a community resource group dedicated to public space inventories.
- Formulate a methodology for data collection.
- Conduct partner engagement and training on collection
- Conduct a period of data collection and inventory
- Compile, finalize and interpret the data
- Begin processing into user-based applications



B. Displaying an Inventory in an Open and Accessible Digital Platform

Now that the data gathering and framework have been established, the next set of items reflects how to compile and display information that you are presenting within the tool. These include thinking about elements of design, user interface and programming, as well as sovereignty and control over data and the accessibility of the tool. Action items include:

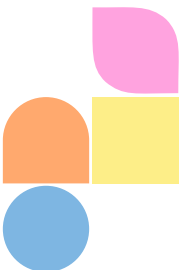
- Clearly and concisely describe the application or tool to the user
- Identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that should be considered to monitor and evaluate the quality of public spaces.
- Use a graphic user-interface that is device-friendly, easy to interpret and accessible.
- Cater your tool to multiple uses and audiences.
- Be open to collaborative opportunities



C. Constructing a Public Asset Profile of each Public Space in Your Community

A Public Asset Profile is a form that provides a brief overview of general information related to a public space or site. For example, if you are on a map application of a public space inventory, a Public Asset Profile would pop up as an overview of the asset when you click on its beacon.

Regardless of how it is presented, each public asset in your inventory would benefit from having a Public Asset Profile displaying the location, typology of place and other key information that provide a detailed overview of the space.





Sample Public Space/Asset Profile

Site: Main Street Park

Address: 123 Main Street W

Year founded: 1976

Typology: City Park

Authority/Ownership: City of Townsville

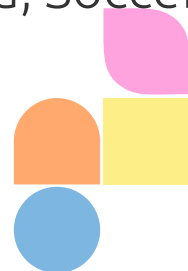
Status: Open, Year-Round Maintenance

Key Engagements: Summerfest, Winterfest

Key infrastructure: Playground, Soccer Field, Fountain

Restrooms?: Yes

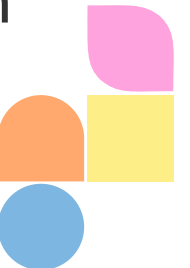
Walk Score: 88



D. Identifying and Displaying Metrics in Evaluating Public Spaces

Metrics are another key component that should be present in your Public Space Inventory. This section of the tool highlights considerations that your team should make regarding the kinds of metrics to prioritize for display, evaluation and other analysis techniques. Key components to excel at this include to:

- Prioritize community in your approach
- Display data and metrics in an open and just format
- Be innovative in the tools used for assessment and forecasting
- Provide appropriate references and additional data/information, when applicable.



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