

2. Neighbourhood Context Plan Area

Fairfield boasts a diversity of commercial, residential and natural areas, from urban downtown in the northwest corner to historic residential to awe-inspiring green spaces on the ocean's edge.

Today, Fairfield is comprised of a mix of mid- and low-rise apartments, townhouses, duplexes, converted heritage homes, and single-detached homes on well-maintained, tree-lined streets with areas of commercial activity which support two villages, Cook Street Village and Ross Bay Village (known as Fairfield Plaza). Close to the downtown, Fairfield includes denser multi-unit buildings, businesses and hotels in the Cathedral Hill and Humboldt Valley areas, as well as commerce along Fort Street. Throughout are scattered commercial areas including at Moss Street and Fairfield Road, Moss and May, and along Cook Street south of Meares Street (see Chapters 7).

Fairfield is approximately 271 hectares (669 acres) in size, and is bounded to the east by the Gonzales neighbourhood, to the north by the Rockland and Harris Green neighbourhoods, to the west by Beacon Hill Park and Blanshard Street, and to the south by the ocean shoreline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

This neighbourhood has a vibrant weekly summer farmer's market, two community centres, and the Downtown Y. Education is provided by École Élémentaire Sir James Douglas Elementary School and Christ Church Cathedral school. (See Chapter 13, Community Facilities and Well-Being).

In addition to Beacon Hill Park and the Dallas Road waterfront, the neighbourhood contains several additional city parks and greens, and provincial green spaces at the BC Court's building and St. Ann's Academy and the historic Ross Bay Cemetery. Important ecosystems are found in Beacon Hill Park, Moss Rocks Park and the waterfront, as well as in the urban forest found on public and private lands throughout the neighbourhood (see Chapter 4, Parks, Open Spaces and Urban Forest). A number of designated heritage sites include Pioneer Park, Christchurch Cathedral, St. Ann's academy, the Ross Bay Villa, and a range of apartment buildings and private homes throughout the neighbourhood (see Chapter 10, Heritage).

The neighbourhood includes two identified Frequent Transit routes—one along Fort Street and one on Fairfield Road—as well as planned All Ages and Abilities routes as part of the bicycle network (see Chapter 3, Transportation and Mobility).

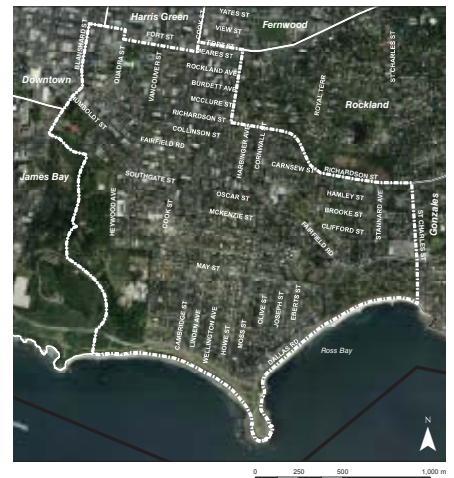


Figure 4. Fairfield Neighbourhood Plan Area