

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

This glossary is intended to clarify, invite innovation and find agreed meanings for terminology relevant to collaboration toward establishing provisions for the Woonerf concept in Victoria. In general, citations provided for some terms are intended as jump-off points for research for those interested. Definitions included in this non-exclusive glossary are drawn from a range of reputable sources, often several sources for a single term, including quoted text not intended to infringe copyright. References for this and other aspects of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot may be reviewed by arrangement with the volunteer archivist, a member of the Core Planning Group.

Terms

Arterial: a high-capacity urban thoroughfare fed by sub-arterial collectors, connectors and local roads (terms with sometimes variable meanings) in a traditional Functional Classification System (FCS) model that considers roads primarily as corridors for motorised traffic¹. Alternative models aim to provide a broader range of considerations in recognition that access and mobility are two of many roadway uses. The region of Wentworth-Hamilton in Ontario adds classifiers and inverts the FCS hierarchy by placing “passage” with no vehicular use at the top, and “mobility road” with highest volume and highest speeds at the bottom of the planning pyramid.

Bollard: a post or similar obstruction to create a visual guide and protective barrier; the spacing of bollards can allow passage of bicycles and pedestrians; bollards may incorporate lighting and can be designed to include audio and other features as part of way-finding networks.

Built Environment: person-made surrounding including homes, buildings, public and private spaces and furnishings, transportation routes, parks, and facilities in which people live, work, play; the built environment influences how people experience life and, as infrastructure, factors into all aspects of community development and wellness.

Bump-Out: a curb extension used to narrow the street and widen sidewalk areas at intersections, often in place of on-street parking, thereby narrowing the pedestrian crossing distance over a right-of-way.

Chicane: a horizontal diversion of traffic that can be gentle or more restrictive depending on the design; alternating, off-set mid-block curb extensions or islands that narrow the roadway and require vehicles to follow a curving, S-shaped path to slow speeds and increase safety; a serpentine curve in a road, added by design rather than dictated by geography, and implemented using plantings, benches, parking and other amenities; may involve “choker” and other design choices to achieve the desired effect.

Childstreet²: a perspective on urban public space in which roads in residential areas used for recreation and playing as well as local mobility needs. In principle, children (worldwide) have lost freedom of movement outdoors, caused to a large extent by the increase in motorised traffic. The ability of children to move around freely is of critical importance for physical and mental health development, an issue to which a future-oriented society attaches great importance and so places emphatic conditions on the layout of urban public spaces and on traffic in particular; an integrated approach is advocated, aimed at design, education and enforcement.

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

Citizen Involvement: a term used to describe citizen participation in all phases of a comprehensive planning process; work directly with relevant agencies throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered¹.

Citizen Led Initiative: a grassroots movement emerging to solve challenges, large and small, which traditionally top-down institutions may fail to address effectively. Global examples include the EU Citizen's Initiative and local initiatives include neighbourhood community gardens, way-finding and placemaking activities, often involving and infrastructure related engagements. The Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot incorporates such goals as citizens mobilise social capital and intellectual capital networks to promote people-centred planning practices.

Collaboration: a partnering in each aspect of decision processes including the development of alternatives and the preferred solution(s);³ one of five levels of public participation established by the International Association for Public Participation which are: inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower, defining degrees of public participation in civic governance.

Collector road⁴: Collector streets are located within the specific area, providing indirect and direct access for land uses within the specific area to the road network. These streets should carry no traffic external to the specific area. See also, FCS and alternatives, under "Arterial".

Community Development: activities and programs designed to strengthen the physical, social and economic conditions of an area with a view toward making it a more healthful, prosperous and gratifying place to live.

Comfort Zone: a psychological state in which things feel familiar to a person and they are at ease and in control of their environment, experiencing low levels of anxiety and stress.

Connector road⁵: a sub arterial road to carry through-traffic between multiple specific areas and arterial roads. See also, FCS and alternatives, under "Arterial".

Core Planning Group: a sub-set of Oaklands Rise Woonerf members tasked by the Initiating Group and the larger General Interest Group to undertake coordinative and design efforts.

CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design): a group of strategies and concepts (including the design of buildings and landscaping) intended to reduce the fear of crime and opportunities to commit crimes. A wider range of social crime prevention strategies as embedded in Place-making activities includes community meetings and gatherings to encourage social interaction.

Gateway⁶: a physical or geometric landmark that delineates a change in community context or street topography or serves as a de facto entrance to a greenway or woonerf, alerting users to the change in character and behavioural expectations; signals a change in environment from a higher speed arterial or collector road to a lower speed residential or commercial district; clearly indicates that beyond it lies an area with a different character and a lower speed limit⁷.

Gateway Features or Treatment: design elements that signify entrance to/egress from a distinct area, usually a place where a new character or sense of identity should be acknowledged; such a

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

gateway can be achieved through details of the built form, through landscaping, or signage; a gateway clearly indicates that beyond it lies an area with a different character and a lower speed limit.

Gateway features are intended to trigger and guide changes in user behaviour in accord with the established context (e.g. increased pedestrian usage; slower traffic speeds, etc.).

Greenway: a linear open space; a corridor composed of natural vegetation. Greenways can be used to create connected networks of open space that include traditional parks and natural areas. A walkable, safe, green spaces to increase possibilities for people to meet and mature relationships beyond family, friends and colleagues.

Hardscape: elements added to a natural landscape, such as paving stones, gravel, walkways, irrigation systems, roads, retaining walls, sculpture, street amenities, fountains, and other mechanical features

Hard Surface: a treatment, as by paving, the surface of, as a road, to prevent muddiness

Home Zone : a residential areas in which street space is shared between pedestrians, cyclists and motorists; the traditional distinction between the carriageway and footways is removed and the street as a whole becomes an extension of the local community's living space; see Woonerf.

Intellectual Capital (IC): a factor of knowledge and skills of involved people (human capital); the practices, systems and evidence-base through which they engage, learn and act (structural capital); and the diverse relationships and networks of capabilities that attends each person (relational capital). The World Bank and other global organisations recognise investment in IC as a crucial factor for nations, states and communities. Recognising IC value expands resource capacity exponentially. See also, social capital.

Landscape Lighting: lighting that is designed to accompany and illuminate landscaping features.

Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper (LQC)⁸: affordable, human-scale, and near-term transformations of the built environment; citizen-led and place-focused projects of variable scope; opportunities to test concepts through shorter term, less engineered interventions as relatively lesser cost alterations to public space.

Living Street: a street designed primarily with the interests of pedestrians, children and non-vehicular users in mind as a social space where people can meet and children can play legally and safely; roads remain available for use by cyclists and motor vehicles, however their design aims to reduce both the speed and dominance of motorised transport. This is often achieved using the shared space approach, with greatly reduced demarcations between vehicle traffic and pedestrians. Vehicle parking may also be restricted to designated bays to optimise the use of space. The Living Street is a social space rather than a route for vehicles to get from point A to point B; see also, Woonerf.

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

Local Street: intended to provide access to abutting properties only, see also: residential street. See also, FCS and alternatives, under “Arterial”.

Neighbourhood: an imprecisely defined area within which people live, work, learn, and play. Its edges may be well-defined or more loosely felt by residents. Although it is often defined by a radius equal to an easy walk, its size may vary, from an easily walkable district to a larger region. In some cases, neighbourhoods may overlap, especially where they are well-connected. See also, Twenty (20) Minute Neighbourhood⁹. Official Community Plans may designate official neighbourhood defined geographically rather than as a reflection of community as defined by residents.

Parklet: an example of place-making on public land to encourage socialisation, exercise, play and rest as aspects of community health; a parklet may be a non-permanent use of parking spaces to create a seating area; a green space to provide a pedestrian step-off area; or a fuller implementation of localised community gardening, seniors and children’s equipment, art, or some other visual amenity.¹⁰

People Priority Greenway (PPG): a secondary connector and local streets.

Pedestrian: a person on foot or in a self-propelled vehicle or one propelled by a person afoot such as wheelchair or other assistive device.

Pedestrian-Friendly, also, Walkability: a characteristic of the built environment that is pleasant and inviting for people to experience on foot; specifically offering sensory appeal, safety, street amenities such as plantings and furniture, suitable lighting, easy visual and physical access to buildings, and diverse activities.

Performance Indicator: a term that describes a characteristic of a system in order to measure progress towards a specific goal.

Performance Measure: a method used to assign a value to one or a sum of performance indicators. Performance indicators measure change over time, and the performance measure is a specific activity, change, or outcome that can be measured.

Place: a particular location or space that may be a destination, an area for social interaction, exercise, rest, etc. that is afforded at least an equal value to that of other uses of the shared space.

Place-making: an activity to create “place”, preserving or protecting a public space to achieve benefits in community health and safety; a living space, strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, paying attention to the physical, cultural and social identities that define a place; “place” may be used to designate a zone for such purposes. A key element in the CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design); 12 principles are including in the City of Victoria Official Community Plan¹¹.

Quality of life: a measure of the standard of living which considers non-financial factors such as health, functional status and social opportunities that are influenced by disease, injury, treatment or social and political policy

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

Self-explaining Roads (SER)¹²: a concept in which the driver is encouraged to naturally adopt behaviour consistent with design and function of roads, each distinctive relative to purpose; the built environment effectively provides a "label" for the particular type of road to reduce need for separate traffic control devices such as additional traffic signs to regulate traffic behaviour; such an approach uses simplicity and consistency of design to reduce driver stress and driver error and is already used for the highest road classes (motorways).

Shared Roadway : a roadway upon which a bicycle lane is not designated and which may be legally used by bicycles regardless of whether such facility is specifically designated as a bikeway.

Shared Street: a common space to be shared by pedestrians, bicyclists, and low-speed motor vehicles. These are usually narrowed streets without curbs and sidewalks. Plantings, street furniture, and other obstacles are placed so as to discourage and inhibit through-traffic movements and encourage slow vehicular speed.

Shared Space: an urban design approach which seeks to minimise the segregation of pedestrians and vehicles. This is done by removing features such as curbs, road surface markings, traffic signs, and traffic lights

Social Capital: an aspect of Human or Cultural Capital through which interaction among people in groups; adoption or rejection of norms; inclusion and exclusion are factors to recognise and engage in community related work. See also, Intellectual Capital.

Speed Bump: a modular or permanent, abrupt traffic calming device typical of parking lots; 2-4” in height, short travel distance aimed to produce speeds of 2-10 mph; 2-jolt interventions not typically acceptable for emergency vehicles; utility improves with spaced, repeated placements.

Speed Cushion: a modular or permanent, elongated speed bump approximately 3” high with a 3.5’ travel distance, positioned to permit emergency vehicles to pass with wheels on either side of the cushion; the separated placement can reduce risk of water displacement. The overall efficacy of speed cushions relative to other traffic calming devices is a subject of some debate.

Speed Hump¹³: a generic term for a type of traffic calming that can take many forms: bump, cushion, table. ORW recommends against this term in favour of specifics to avoid confusion.

Speed Slots^{14,15}: a form of speed bump with slots positioned centrally to permit emergency vehicles to avoid the bump or cushion. Speed are reportedly less effective in slowing speeds than other installations and may increase risk of collision. ORW recommends against use of this term to avoid confusion with speed cushions and “slot-systems¹⁶” designed to eliminate traffic lights.

Speed Table: a term used to describe a very long and broad speed hump, or a flat-topped speed hump; may be combined with curb extensions where parking exists; raises the entire wheelbase of a vehicle to reduce its traffic speed; provides both a visual and physical characteristics to communicate requirement for change in driving behaviour. Speed tables are flat-topped, with a height of 3–3.5 inches and a length of 22 feet. Also known as “silent policemen”, speed tables can be used to designate the entrance and exit from a zone.

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

Street Furniture: accessories and amenities placed for pedestrian convenience and use including elements such as benches or other seating, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, planters, kiosks, clocks, newspaper dispensers, art installations, exercise and playground equipment.

Streetscape: the visual character of a street as determined by elements such as structures, furnishings, greenery, driveways, open space, view, and other natural and man-made components

Sustainable: a term to describe methods, systems, or materials that will not deplete non-renewable resources or harm natural cycles; outcomes that can be sustained over time.

Step Off: an act of stepping aside or moving to another position or location; a place to step off.

Residential street: a non-arterial street that provides access to residential land uses, and connects to higher level traffic streets; also called residential access or local street.

Traffic Calming a range of measures commonly used on residential streets to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic on street users including residents, pedestrians and cyclists by slowing traffic to improve safety. May include the use of signage, different paving surfaces, roundabouts, speed bumps, perceived and actual narrowing of streets/roads. Visual cues include bringing buildings closer to streets, landscaping and street furniture. See also: speed bump, cushion, table.

Traffic Circle or Mini-circle¹⁷: a level or raised island in the centre of an intersection to calm traffic; can take the place of a signal or four-way stop sign; occasional larger vehicles going through an intersection with a traffic circle (e.g., a fire truck or moving van) can be accommodated by creating a mountable curb in the outer portion of the circle or they may make left-hand turns in front of the circle.

Traffic Circle also called a traffic roundabout, is a raised island located in the centre of an intersection. Traffic circles are usually installed in residential areas to help to reduce vehicle speeds and collisions at intersections.

Twenty (20) Minute Neighbourhood:¹⁸ an conceptual planning model originating in Portland to align the amenities and characteristics of neighbourhood within an approximately twenty minute radius on foot for community wellness, environmental responsibility, an sustainable infrastructure management. This concept should not be rigidly applied but can provide a lens through which shaping a neighbourhood can yield benefits.

Way-finding: a system of information tools to orient users of an area enabling navigation cued by visual, audible, and tactile elements such as artefacts, signs, graphic communications, spatial markets, streetscape elements, building design, and the street network.

Walkable Areas: the extent to which an area accommodates pedestrians; walkable areas are pedestrian friendly and encourage pedestrian travel.

Walkability: reflects overall walking conditions and usually takes into account the quality of pedestrian facilities, roadway conditions, land use patterns, community support, security and comfort for walking. The quality of pathways, building access ways and related facilities, the

Oaklands Rise Woonerf Pilot Glossary

existence of sidewalks and crosswalks, roadway conditions (road widths, traffic volumes and speeds), accessibility (the relative location of common destinations) and the quality of connections between them all affect walkability

Wide-surface Walkway: a surface with a width of eight to sixteen feet or more for mixed, primarily pedestrian and non-motorised vehicle use to accommodate social walking and activate benefits for community health and wellness. This is proposed as a local road classification.

Woonerf: streets featuring human-centred design principles and improved safety for pedestrians and cyclists; vehicles are guests and travel at the speed of pedestrians; a place to play, socialise and engage in the community on a street or square where human-centred design principles enable cars, pedestrians, cyclists, and other local users to coexist without traditional safety infrastructure to guide them. Also sometimes called a "shared street," a woonerf is generally free of traffic lights, stop signs, curbs, painted lines, and the like. Users have equal access to the road and vehicles proceed "at the pace of people" (about 6-12 km/h when people are on the road) as enforced by design including the use of public amenities such as plants, art, playground equipment, street furniture; curving roads, etc. as suited to context; see also: shared streets.

Terms to add/clarify:

Selected References

- ¹ Forbes, "Urban Roadway Classification." https://nacto.org/docs/usdg/urban_roadway_classification_before_the_design_begins_forbes.pdf
- ² CROW and Ede, 2009. Road Safety Manual. CROW.
- ³ [https://iap2canada.ca/Resourses/Documents/0702-Foundations-Spectrum-MW-rev2%20\(1\).pdf](https://iap2canada.ca/Resourses/Documents/0702-Foundations-Spectrum-MW-rev2%20(1).pdf)
- ⁴ Eppell, Bunker, and McClurg, 2001. "A Four Level Road Hierarchy for Network Planning and Management"
- ⁵ Eppell, Bunker, and McClurg, 2001. "A Four Level Road Hierarchy for Network Planning and Management"
- ⁶ "Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System."
- ⁷ CROW and Ede, 2009. Road Safety Manual. CROW.
- ⁸ <https://www.pps.org/gps/lqc>
- ⁹ <https://www.livablecities.org/articles/distance-destinations-density>
- ¹⁰ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parklet>
- ¹¹ City of Victoria, 2017. Official Community Plan. https://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/Replaced/OCP_Sec8_Jul2017_web.pdf
- ¹² European Commission Mobility and Transport https://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/knowledge/road/designing_for_road_function/self_explaining_roads_en
- References: https://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/knowledge/road/references_en#Ref_076_Ripcord
- ¹³ "Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System."
- ¹⁴ Johnson and Nedzesky. 2004. "A Comparative Study of Speed Humps, Speed Slots and Speed Cushions."
- ¹⁵ Berthod 2011. "Traffic Calming Speed Humps and Speed Cushions."
- ¹⁶ Sorrel and Sorrel, 2016. "On These MIT-Designed Streets, There Are No Traffic Lights, Or Need To Stop At All."
- ¹⁷ "Pedestrian Safety Guide and Countermeasure Selection System."
- ¹⁸ <https://www.livablecities.org/articles/distance-destinations-density>