### Mission Statement

Greenspace and urban ecology are vital for the health of a city. Impermeable surfaces contribute to surface water pollution, flooding, and amplify the Urban Heat Island effect.Urban greenery provides an opportunity to use a single intervention with multiple benefits.

We developed *GreenAbilityExplorer* to help city planners identify sites within Metro Vancouver where there is a need for urban greenery and the potential to convert currently impermeable land to greenspace.Identifying potential greening sites could be the first steps to systematically expanding the reach of urban greenery. Incremental changes will strengthen urban ecosystems, mitigate the effects of Urban Heat Islands, build urban resiliency in flood and rainwater management, and contribute to the health and well-being of communities.

We recognize the important role that partnering with the local community has on the development and use of greenspace. To engage with the public, we developed a supplementary app, *GreenSpaceFinder*,which provides information about a greenspace of interest in the city of Vancouver. An embedded survey allows the public to provide feedback about greenspaces they visited and where they would like to see more greenspace. A link to these survey results is included in *GreenAbilityExplorer*.

This collaborative approach can foster a powerful partnership for urban centres to greatly improve livability, sustainability, and resiliency. Improving greenspaces and increasing the overall permeable surface area will provide long-term measurable gains in strengthening urban ecosystems. These apps support this mission by providing planners with powerful insight through effective data visualization. When added to current workflows, they have the potential to streamline the process of green planning and improve the long term outlook for the health of urban ecosystems.