



Who are We?

The Bowker Creek Initiative is a collaborative effort between people, organizations, and local governments to protect and enhance the ecological, social, and economic health of the Bowker Creek watershed.



BCI Vision

The varied human uses and natural areas in the Bowker Creek watershed are managed to minimize runoff and pollution, making Bowker Creek a healthy stream that supports habitat for native vegetation and wildlife, and provides a community greenway to connect neighbourhoods.

Bowker Creek Initiative Member Organizations:

City of Victoria
 District of Oak Bay
 District of Saanich
 Capital Regional District
 University of Victoria
 Camosun Community Association
 Community Association of Oak Bay
 Friends of Bowker Creek Society
 North Jubilee Neighbourhood Association
 Quadra Cedar Hill Neighbourhood Association

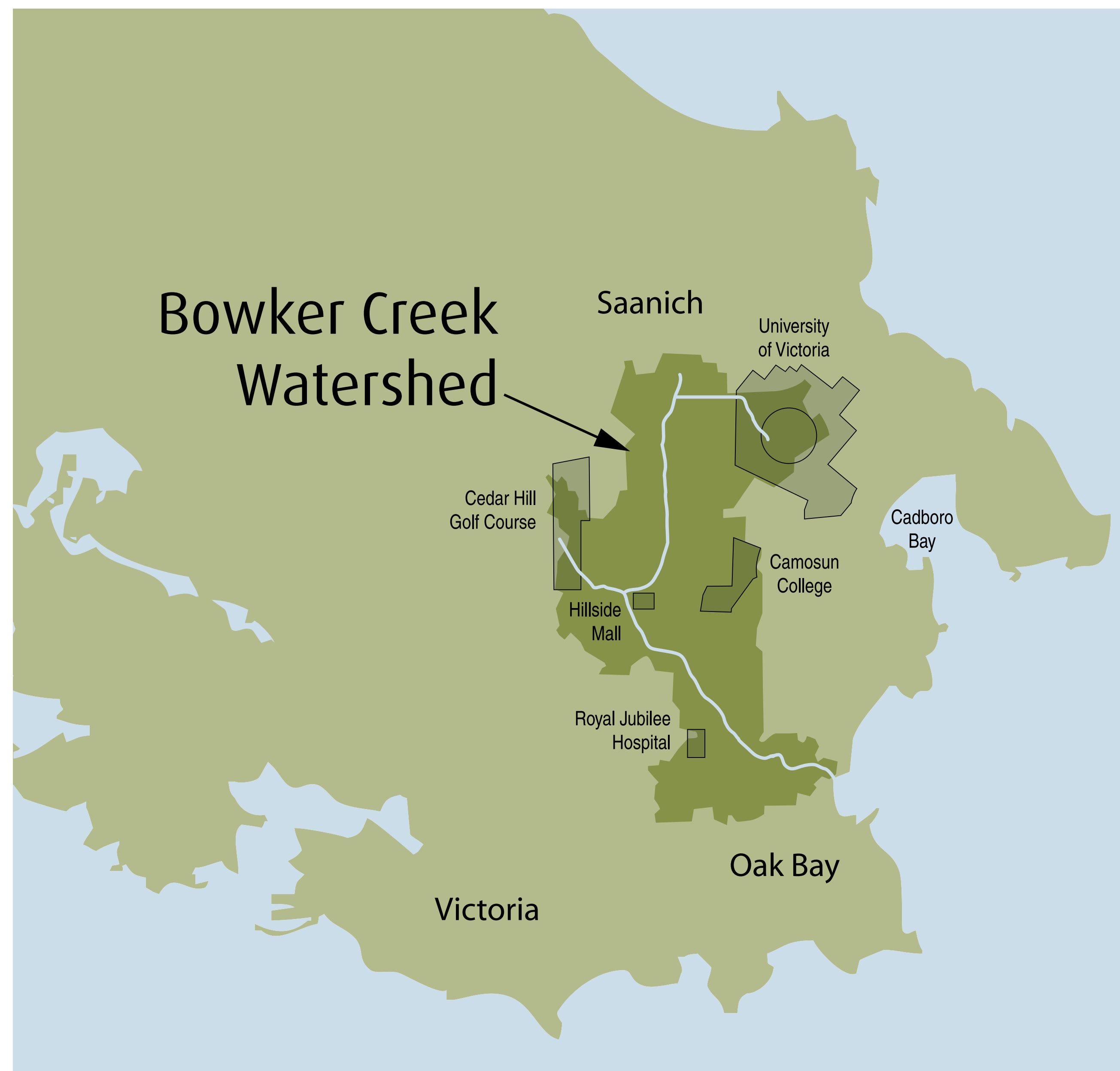
BCI Goals

- Individuals and others take responsibility for actions that affect the watershed
- Manage flows effectively
- Improve and expand public areas, natural areas, and biodiversity in the watershed
- Achieve and maintain acceptable water quality in the watershed

What is a Watershed?

We all live in a watershed.
Another word for watershed is “catchment” – a way to describe how rain falling within a watershed’s boundaries makes its way downhill into a creek or river and eventually to the sea.

Bowker Creek drains one of the largest urban watersheds in Greater Victoria – extends from the UVic, through the District of Saanich and City of Victoria, and out to the ocean through the District of Oak Bay.



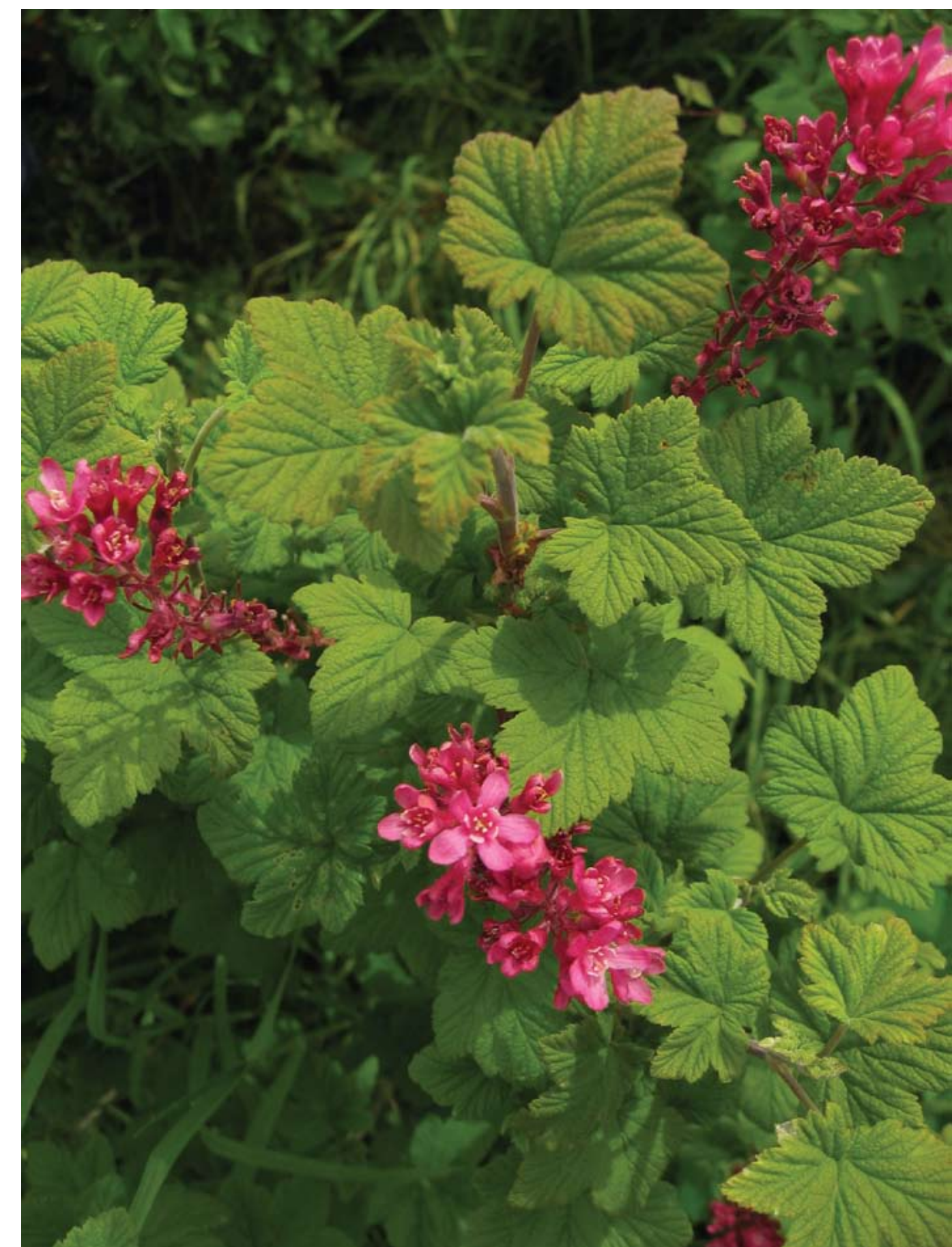
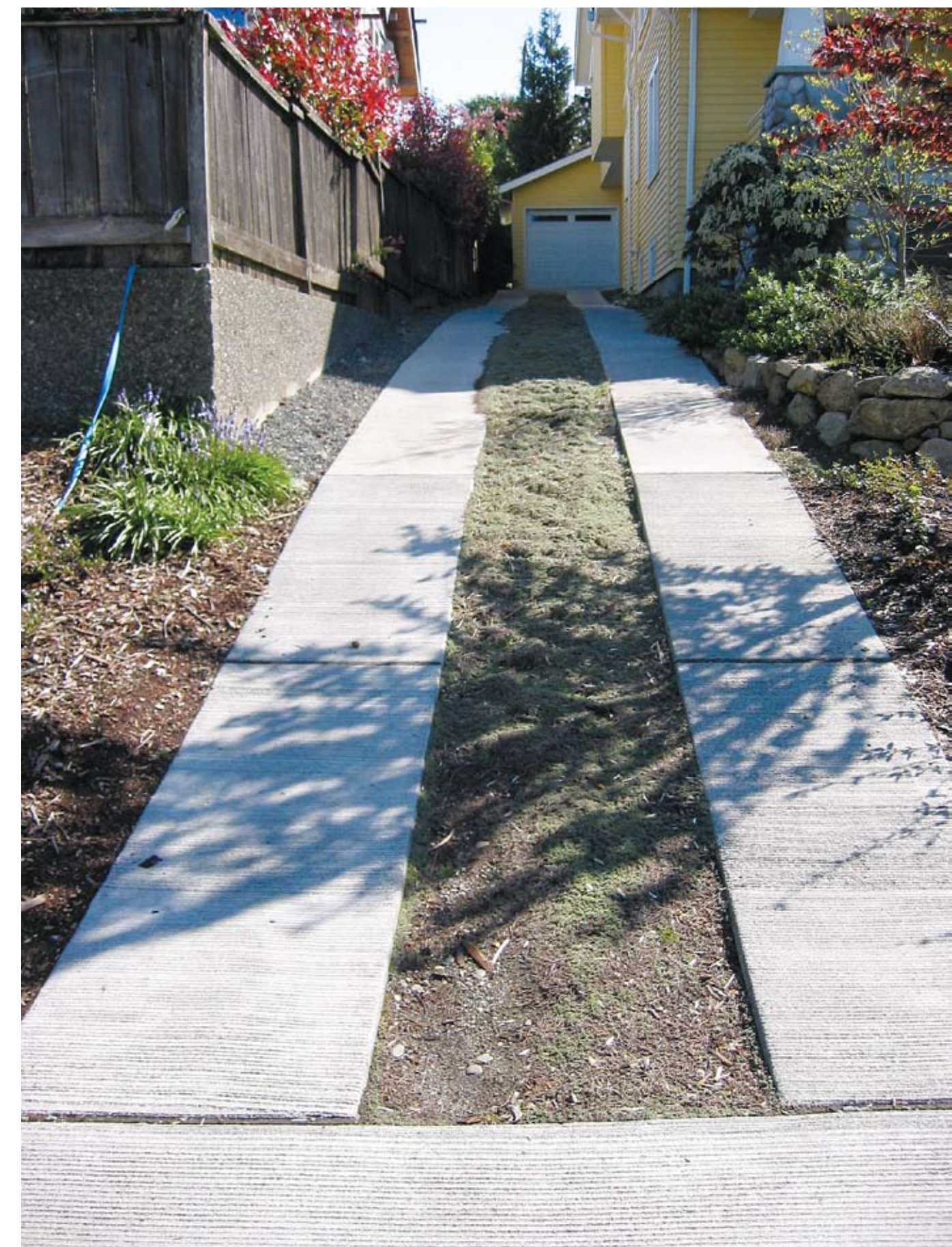
Most rain entering the creek runs off roofs, roads, and parking lots directly connected to the creek via underground pipes. Like any urban creek, Bowker Creek needs participation from its neighbours to become clean and healthy. About 30,000 people live in this watershed, and everyone can make a difference.



How can a homeowner help Bowker Creek?

Everyone can help improve the health of an urban watershed. There are three main ways the homeowner can contribute:

- 1 Allow rainwater to infiltrate into the ground on your property.
- 2 Reduce pollution running off your property and your car.
- 3 Garden with native plants and remove invasive plants.



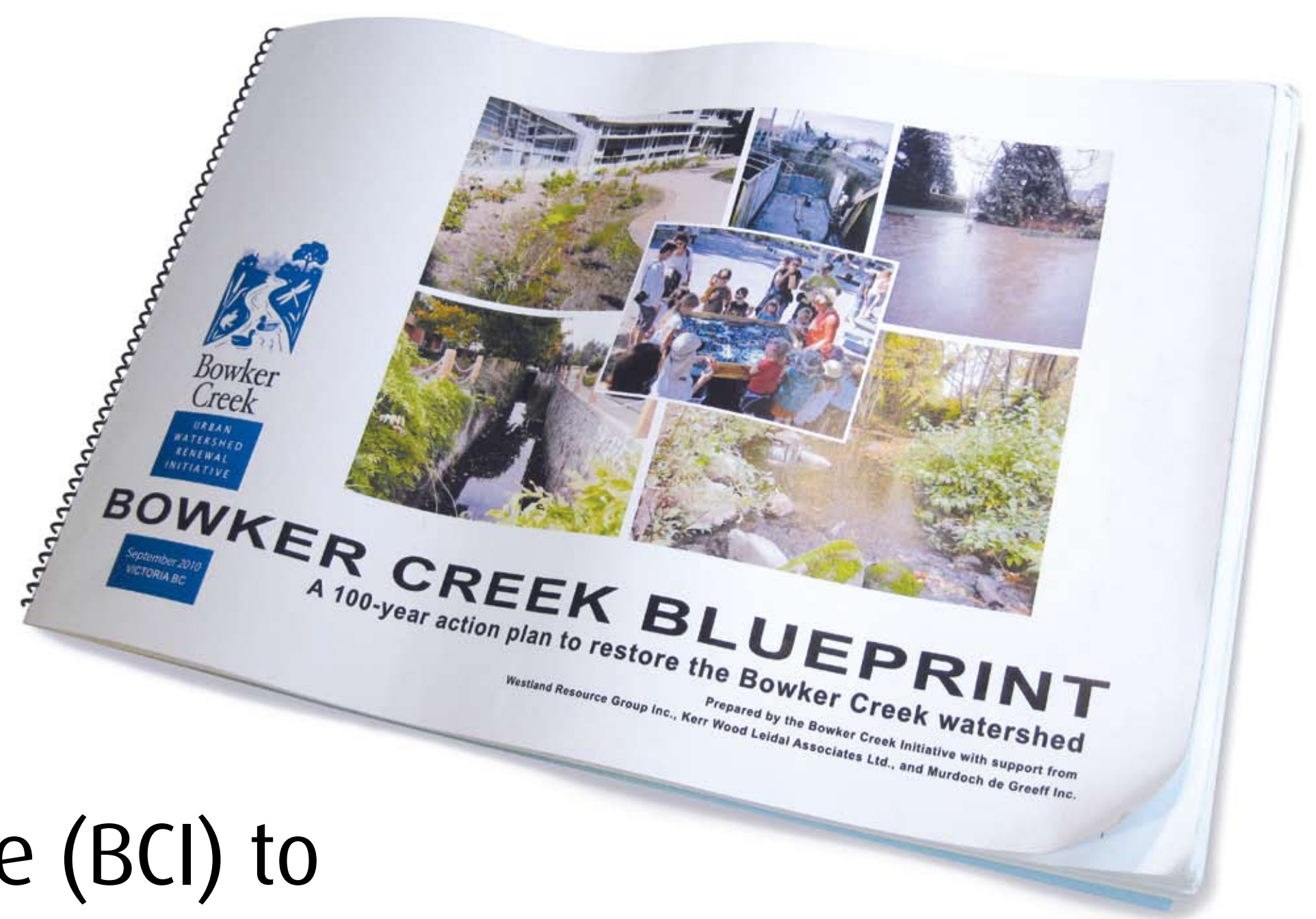
Pledge to be a Bowker Creek Steward

Fill out a pledge form at:
www.bowkercreekinitiative.com



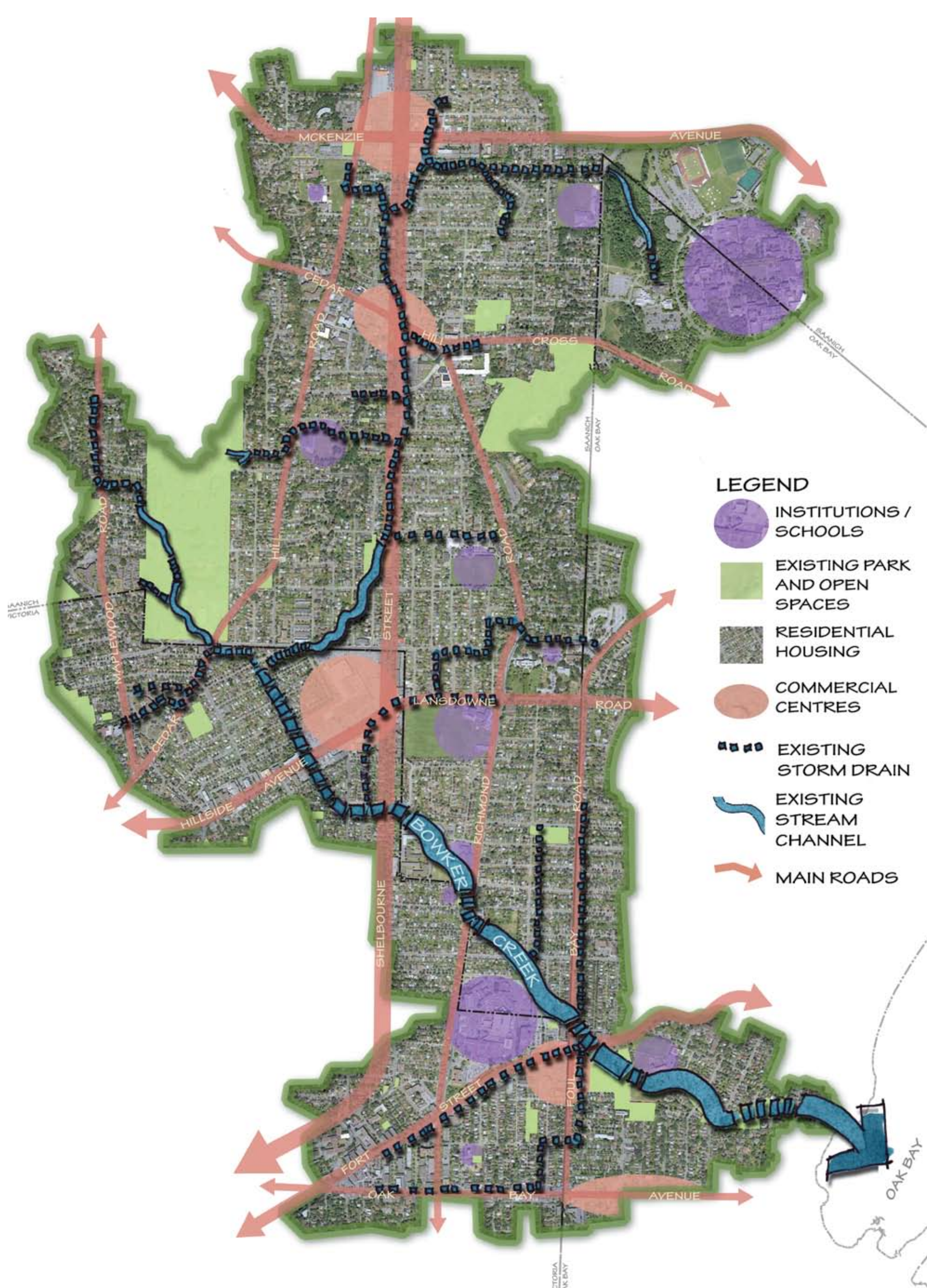
What is the Bowker Creek Blueprint?

The Bowker Creek Blueprint was developed by the Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) to provide a long-term vision and action plan that brings Bowker Creek back into our community as an integrated social, economic, and environmental asset. The Blueprint outlines specific principles and actions for improving the health of the watershed and the creek corridor.



Why a Hundred Years?

The Blueprint recognizes municipal infrastructure upgrades and redevelopment take place incrementally. When opportunities arise, the Blueprint provides information and guidance to member municipalities, the Capital Regional District, the community, and other land stewards to manage and restore the watershed and creek corridor over the long term.



existing



future vision

Principles for a Healthy Watershed

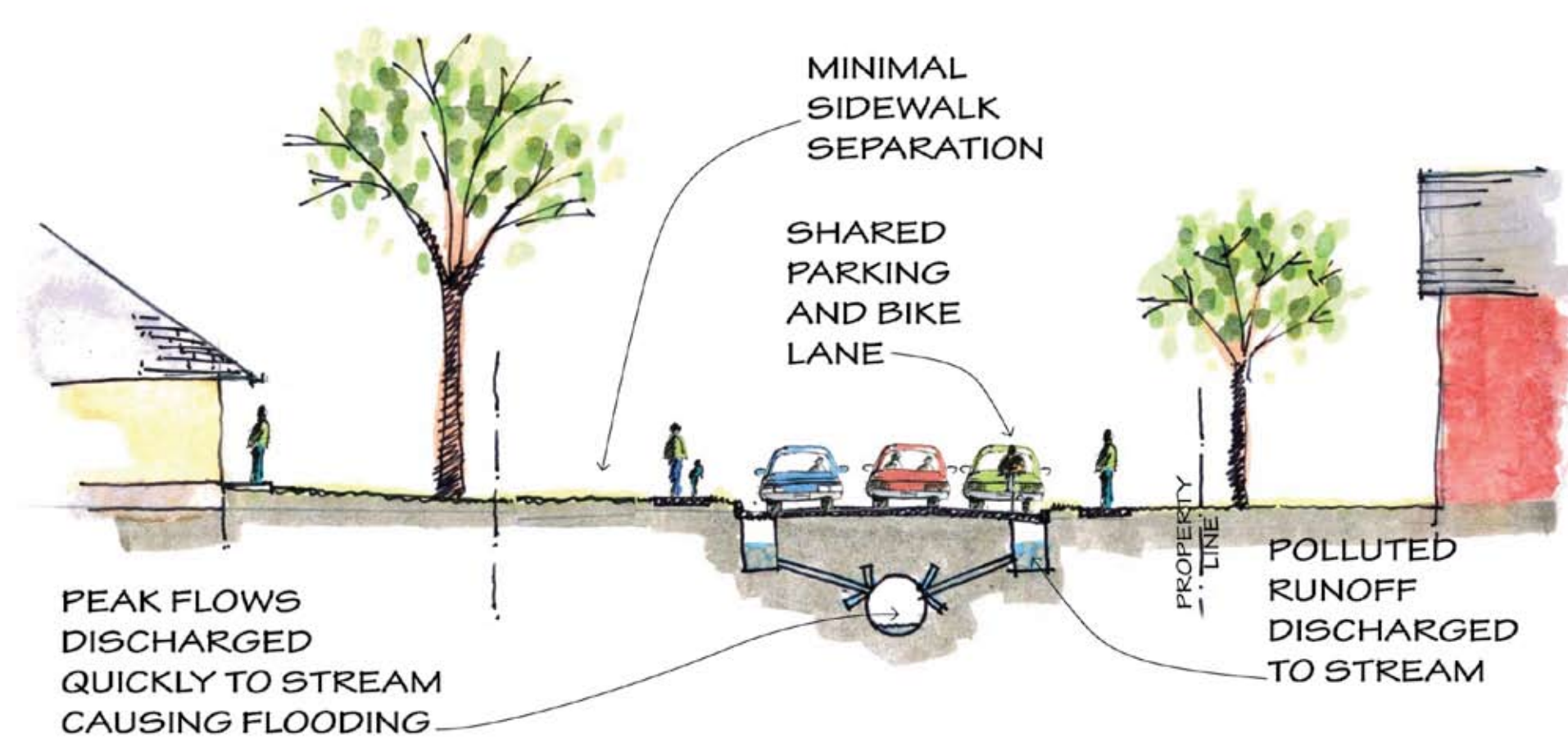
- Use creek-friendly management approaches wherever possible
- Adopt requirements to reduce effective impervious areas
- Construct water infiltration and retention features in boulevards
- Incorporate Bowker Creek goals into municipal plans
- Maintain effective communication of the Bowker Creek vision, goals and actions
- Plant trees and shrubs and protect existing trees
- Purchase and protect key land in the watershed
- Incorporate proposed greenways into land use planning
- Include climate change adaptation and mitigation in all activities



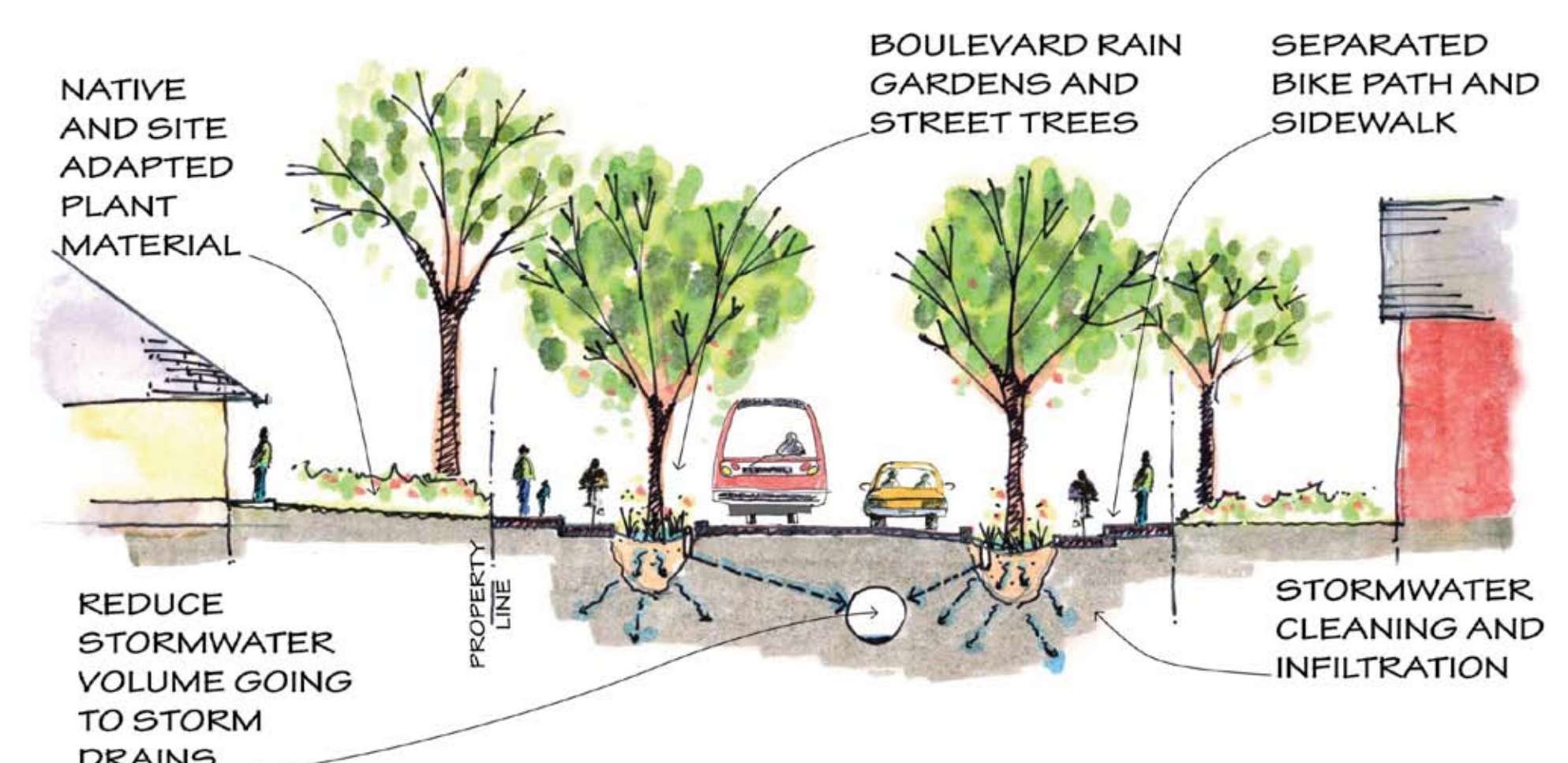
infrastructure problems with storm-water



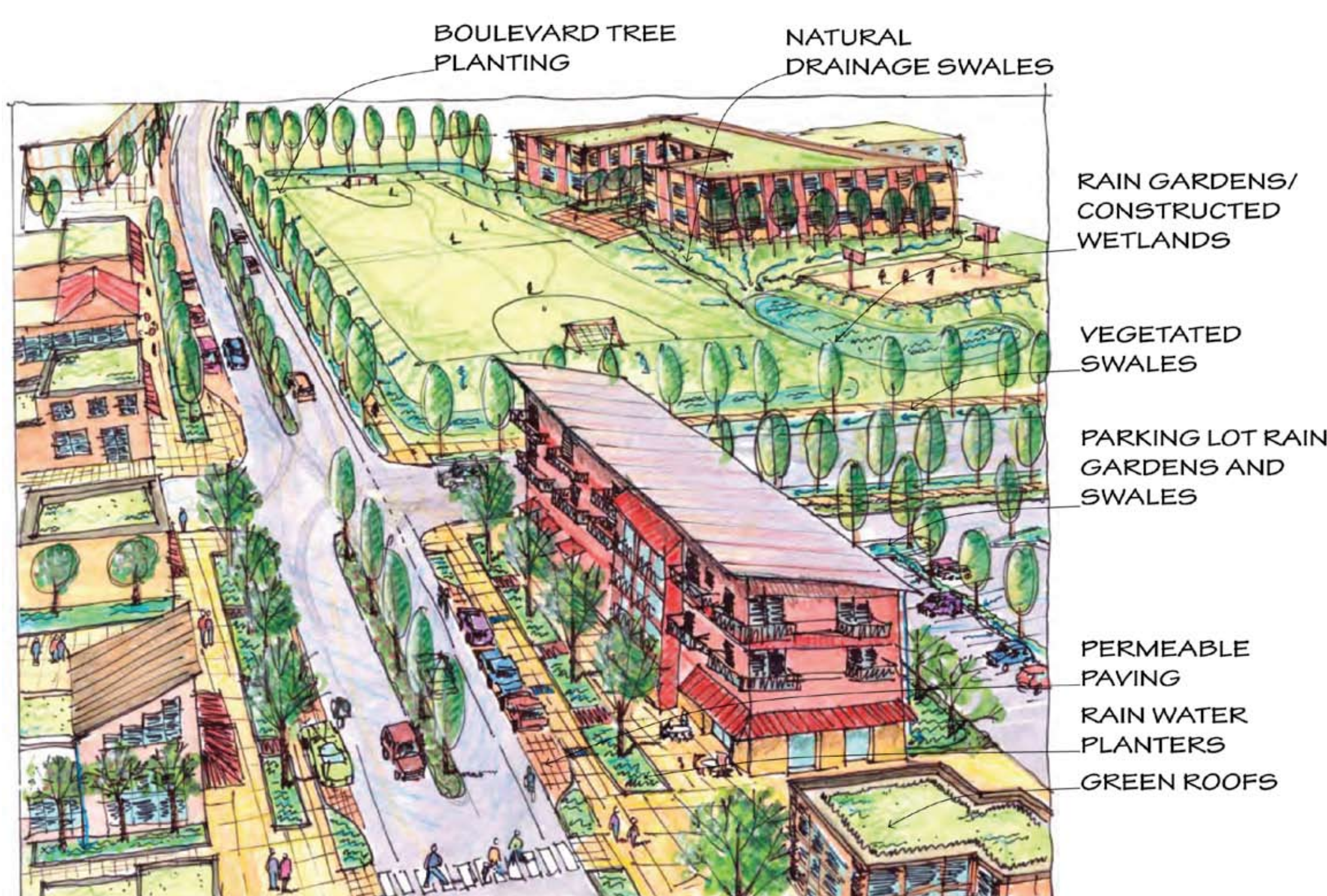
innovative Trent Street raingarden solution



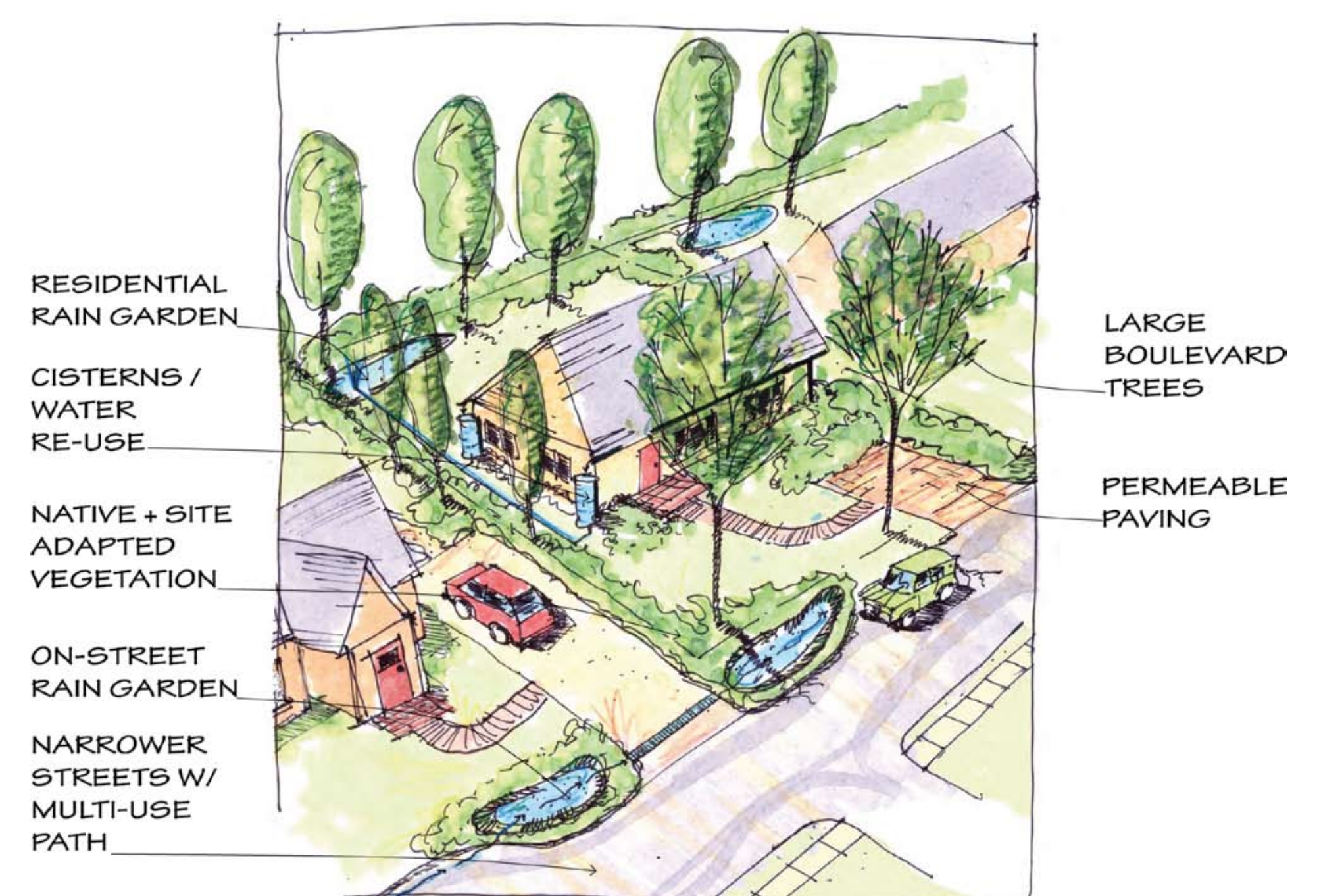
EXISTING STREET SECTION



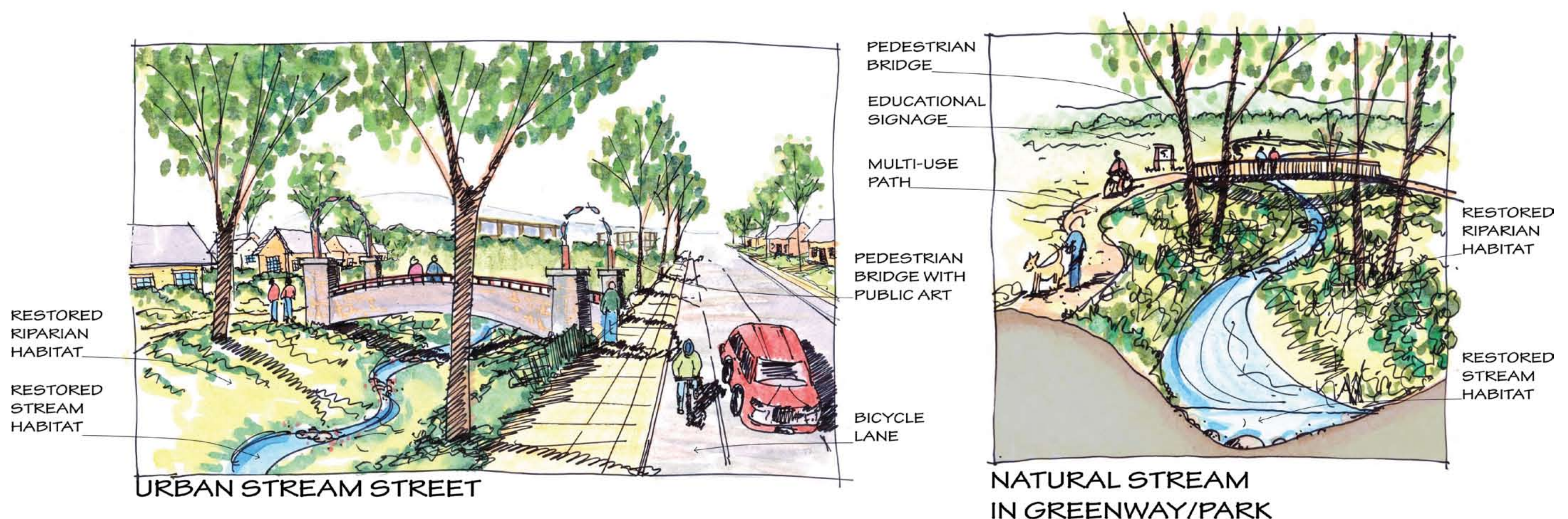
PROPOSED 'GREEN STREET' SECTION



COMMERCIAL/INSTITUTIONAL/URBAN LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT



RESIDENTIAL LOW-IMPACT RETROFIT

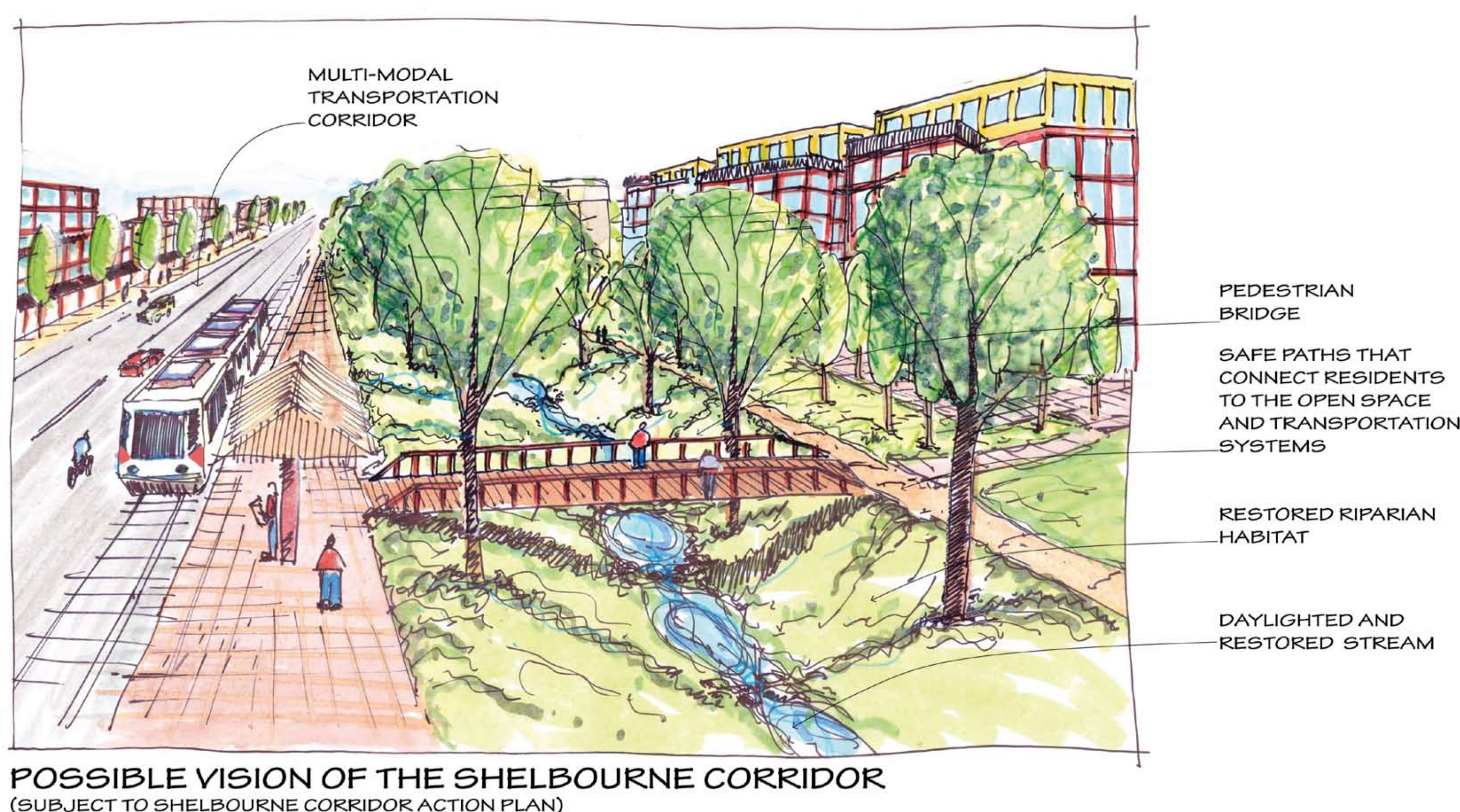


Illustrations: Murdoch de Greeff Inc.

Key Actions for Implementation

These short-term actions have been identified as important first steps for municipalities and other land stewards:

- 1 Revise municipal plans to include Bowker Creek goals.
- 2 Adopt requirements to reduce effective impervious area.
- 3 Remove emerging invasive species beginning to colonize the watershed.
- 4 Build a demonstration rainwater infiltration/retention structures.
- 5 Support municipalities in development of an Urban Forest Strategy.
- 6 Develop a strategy to acquire key properties as they come available.
- 7 Work with Oak Bay High School to design and implement creek restoration.
- 8 Participate in the Shelbourne Corridor Action Plan process, to identify opportunities for creek restoration, rainwater infiltration and/or greenway development.
- 9 Work with creek-side landowners between Pearl and Trent Streets.
- 10 Continue with restoration at Browning Park



Illustrations: Murdoch de Greeff Inc.



**Bowker
Creek**

URBAN
WATERSHED
RENEWAL
INITIATIVE

Visit: www.bowkercreekinitiative.com for more information.