

## Public Feedback: Section 9 - Parks, Recreation and Culture

Sub-Topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
<b>Overview</b>		Regarding Section 9, Parks Recreation and Culture, it is recommended that a paragraph be added addressing the role of community parks and delivery of community recreational services in relation to regional parks and trails. The draft Regional Parks Strategic Plan provides a table that defines the role of national, provincial, regional and municipal parks. Something like this would be helpful in the draft OCP (see attached table).
		Give local and regional parks recognition for providing some habitat.
<b>General</b>		Section 9 – P. 76 – No “Measuring Progress” performance indicators. I highly recommend “Measuring Progress” performance indicators be included in each section.
		The City needs to define the word park lest questionable statistics mislead citizens into assuming that there are more parks in Victoria than there really are. For example, the Spring, 2011 edition of Contact, the City's PR publication, announces a special event that, "encourages people to create temporary parks and open spaces out of downtown parking spots". This brings to mind the old saying, "making a silk purse out of a sow's ear". A spade is a spade; boulevard trees are boulevard trees they are not a forest; a parking spot is a parking spot not a park.
	Glossary	Glossary will need definitions for bio-swales; rain gardens; edible landscapes. Also, define “recreation”.
	[gap: no net loss]	<p>A swimming pool and recreation facility was built on one park (2275 Quadra Street) by the City to replace and free up the much neglected old Crystal Garden swimming pool (on Douglas Street opposite the convention centre at 720 Douglas Street) which, operated by the Provincial Capital Commission, was subsequently converted to a huge greenhouse where exotic plants, small animals and butterflies were exhibited. The conversion made only a few years ago, turned that attraction into a different type of tourist facility in which certain areas of British Columbia were highlighted on computer screens, short-lived entertainment that was closed within a few months because of insufficient customers to make it financially viable. The City of Victoria then renovated it for current use as an extension to the conference centre. Virtually all those changes were financed by taxpayers.</p> <p>Suggestions : Do not eliminate or reduce the size of any more parks, For example, remove the Royal Athletic Park's fence; make it a true public park instead of a locked up sports ground requiring paid admissions. Purchase land for a park to replace the former Ellice Park (Rock Bay) on which a structure for the homeless has been built. Instead of the proposal to ill effect reduce the size of the Central (pocket Park by expanding the existing Crystal Pool (and Fitness Centre) (2275 Quadra Street), keep the park intact.</p>
		Generally supportive of parks chapter direction
		Improvement to park space is essential for liveability; Topaz Park is important amenity.
	[gap: stewardship of park lands]	Engage citizens to maintain public space (ie. Boulevard gardens).
	Need greenspace, to attract working people to live in Victoria	

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		Things that I like about Victoria are: the parks, I like how almost everywhere I go there is a park close by. Another thing I like about Victoria is there are lots of good places to shop, I'm fortunate enough to live very close to Hillside mall so if I ever need anything I can just walk up there. I also enjoy the Cedar Hill Golf course, my friends and I like to go for walks around it on the trail.
		Ok I've lost interest. All the 'policies' seem too general and obvious. The only response seems to be 'of course'.
		It is imperative to not allow activities to compromise the ecological functions of natural areas. We can love these areas to death. Connecting with nature, and destroying it in the process, is not a positive outcome.
		It strikes me as misguided that the Parks portion of the Parks and Rec budget is increasingly siphoned off into clearing boulevards of discarded furniture and cleaning up illegal campsites in important ecosystem areas. That means less funding for maintaining and enhancing parks themselves. As a supporter of protecting natural ecosystems in Victoria, like Summit Park and Beacon Hill Park, I propose that money be allocated specifically for this purpose and that clean-up duties assigned to Parks staff be a separate budget item, making sure to adequately fund the protection, maintenance and enhancement of our natural areas. Our natural parks are our heritage, a place to escape urban pressures, habitat for a variety of species under threat from urban encroachment, a means for mitigating climate change and so much more. Please ensure they are valued accordingly.
		Concerns related to the culture component of this section not sufficiently emphasized; Victoria as a cultural capital.
		Consider switching the arts and culture in Placemaking and Parks, Recreation and Culture, i.e. arts and culture in public realm and cultural spaces to trade sections.
		City's planning of the charity/marathon routes and road closure through the James Bay region needs to be reviewed and changes should be made. These events have inconvenienced the local residents and the tourists who arrive in Victoria via the ferry terminals located along the marathon routes. Passengers disembarking from the ferry terminals on Belleville Street are often left without transportation due to road closures related to these events.
		Public Parks, Recreation and Culture are NOT shelter spaces. When they are commandeered by homeless people and/or their advocates they are de-facto 'off-limits' to the public that pays for them. (and cleans them after the invasion)
		Need a public spaces strategy/planning criteria applicable to public and private sector owners
		Would like to see a small water park in Franklin Green for children.
		I'm a little confused about the 5 point scale. While I may agree wholeheartedly with the idea, I'm not sure the statement itself will be an 'effective' objective. It doesn't have any measurable outcomes or detail to get a handle on.
		Subdivision of single family lot reduces green space. Densification in non-core area reduces green space. Both are detrimental to the livability and environment of the City,
		Wonderful, especially the idea of edible landscapes! Perhaps consider the possibility of setting Government St.

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		<p>from Wharf to View and Broad St. from View to Johnson aside for pedestrian and bike/skateboard/etc. use only. This could just be at certain times, like in the summer, on weekends, or at a certain time of the day. These are not highly trafficked by vehicles as is. It would make a great promenade, a refuge for pedestrians from sidewalks and traffic, would be great for businesses, and would allow a continuous corridor across the centre of downtown (through Trounce Alley). Cross roads would, of course, remain open. Also, connectivity between Parks, Recreation and Culture and perhaps simple navigational signs or maps to indicate the locations of neighbouring Parks, Recreation and Culture would be nice, allowing people to walk via multiple Parks, Recreation and Culture.</p>
<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b> <b>Open Spaces</b>	Map 8, 9.2	<p>What looks like park in our neighbourhood isn't – e.g. much of "Summit Park" is actually the CRD reservoir, the lands below SJ Willis are not protected, the old school playing field and UCW grounds are not even public, let alone protected park land.</p> <p>Key point: move to protect park land, recognize that much of our formal park land (e.g. Topaz Park) is actually regional facilities not accessible to neighbours, look at more park acquisition. As we ramp up the density, we will need more parkland, especially for families</p>
	Map 8, 9.4	<p>More public green space could be acquired by including the whole or at least a portion of the garden around the Mount St. Mary complex (86 Fairfield Road) as a public pocket park, the stated intention during the planning stage. A plan, available for viewing at City Hall about that time, shows a gap between the end of the surrounding fence (facing Humboldt Street) and the property's south-west boundary. That gap likely was intended to be gated for public access but it does not actually exist; instead, the fence extends right up to the south-west boundary. Apparently the only access to the grounds is near the main entrance to the building but it is kept locked preventing public access.</p> <p>Suggestion: This omission could and should be set straight by putting a gate in the fence at the south-west corner. That would enable public access (including elderly residents at Rose Manor (857 Rupert Terrace) and Sunrise Senior Living (920 Humboldt Street), both located across the street from Mount St. Mary gardens.</p>
	Map 8	Define school designation and requirements.
	Map 8	<p>Increase public open space by not renewing the leases of the two car rental businesses (junction Douglas and Humboldt). By extending the limited landscaping at that area, the vacated space could become a link with the open space north of the former greenhouse/cum convention centre expansion, and the whole be incorporated as one single aesthetically-pleasing walkway from Douglas Street to the Cridge (pocket) Park (junction Blanshard and Humboldt Streets) opposite St. Ann's Academy grounds and near the lawn bowling greens. It might also become an area where buskers could perform.</p>
	Map 8, 9.2, 20.24.3	<p>Specific plans to address our lack of parkland and to ensure the survival of our existing greenspace are necessary. Rockland's two tiny "parks" can hardly be considered as such – noting that they are "within walking distance" makes a mockery of the City's goals to "link people to nature, help reinforce neighbourhood character, [and] enable outdoor recreation."</p> <p>Though it is not a park, the Woodland Garden on the corner of Craigdarroch and Joan Crescent, which the Association has been restoring for the past 15 years, should be noted in the OCP.</p>
	Map 8	<p>North Jubilee has minimum green space with the only City-owned area being the Fern Street playlot which has not been upgraded. At one time Begbie Green was a possibility for expansion, but since then Telus has</p>

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		erected a "box" on that site and there is also a pumping station. The green space at the corner of Fort and Richmond is owned by VIHA and is part of the Master Campus Plan which is now being drafted.
	Map 8	Highlighted that North Jubilee is deficient in green space; it is needed today and all the more in the future if there is increased density in the neighbourhood
	Map 8	Interest in keeping the south part of Royal Jubilee Hospital as green space.
	Map 8	Concern about lack of City park space in Rockland. Want place to walk dogs, have social interaction.
	Map 8, Map 1	The "Public Facilities, Institutions, Parks and Open Space" designation for the area west of new Johnson Street Bridge should be expanded to include the area north of Esquimalt Road.
	Map 8, Map 1	Additional parks and open space need to be provided within Harris Green and the Downtown to offset increased growth and density and to provide amenity space for residents.
	Map 8, 9.3. 9.6	The Blueprint identifies several area where property acquisition would be required to improve/daylight the creek corridor and/or to complete the proposed greenway. It may be appropriate to include wording to that effect in this section of the OCP. A confidential list of properties identified for potential acquisition can be provided to City staff if appropriate. In section 9.6, it would be appropriate to include wording about the Bowker Creek greenways and creating connection to other municipal greenways where they cross municipal borders.
	Map 8, Map 28	the map of Vic West has a park or equivalent greenspace in the curve just off the JSB. Its worth noting that many Vic West residents are very invested in seeing this remain a park, and I believe will be in conversation with Mike Lai at some point about the future of this little spot. Just a flag that painting it green now will be seen by many as a commitment to keep it so. Is there a colour code for 'under construction'?
	Map 8, Map 22, Map 1	<b>Key point:</b> on the map of Hillside-Quadra, the OCP should separate institutional, open space and private development lands by colouring them differently
	Map 8	Section 9 – P. 74 – Map 8 – Parks & Open Spaces. I recommend the greenway connections between these parks be shown (in a light colour) on this map. It would also be useful to show the cycling network.
	Map 8	Colour the Galloping Goose Trail green (map 6, p. 74).
	Map 8, 20.13-20.14 and Map 22	Many concerns about Map 8 and Neighbourhood Directions map: (a) separate parks from other facilities on maps – only parks should be coloured in green: (b) frustration and anger that the City was apparently not aware the Canada West site is privately owned, and that HQ community went through a difficult time with the loss of Blanshard School; (c) SJ Willis is wrong name – please change it.
	Map 8	Public Facilities, Institutions, Parks, Recreation and Culture and Open Spaces should not be lumped together! They should have completely different built form, character, density, etc.
	Map 8, Map 1	The Community Gardens at the Railyards should be recognized as "Public Facilities, Institutions, Parks and Open Space.
	Map 8, 9.3.6	Map 8 is missing a park space in Rail Yards – check master agreement.
		Add the seniors' centres and community centres to Map 8 as community facilities

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	Map 8	Some of the waterfront lands on Belleville and Wharf Streets were purchased with funds made available under the Greenbelt Protection Fund Act. Lands purchased with those funds were intended to be preserved as greenbelt "in perpetuity", a fact that to all intent and purposes is ignored in the draft community plan. They appear to be identified for industrial use instead: not even a continuous public waterfront path is envisioned there.  Suggestion: Honour the spirit and intent of the Greenbelt Protection Fund Act in word and deed by ensuring that those waterfront lands are identified as greenbelt park lands on the community plan.
	9.1	Further, the Plan would benefit from acknowledgement of the regional trail system contributions to recreation and greenways. This section does not reference the Galloping Goose Regional Trail or the E&N Rail Trail..
	9.1; 9.6.2	The idea that the size of a park is not as important as the movement from one park to another.
	9.2	Provide protection for Victoria parks with a separate bylaw for each and every one (similar to Saanich) and make them vehicle-free to create a more pleasant, safer and healthier environment. No more buildings that reduce park space. Replace hard top with grass, flowers, trees. Preserve and maintain Pioneer Square's special character.
	9.2	Concern about security of tenure. Rockland has many open spaces, but only two small City parks. Will City develop acquisition fund?
	9.2	How to get new developments/density to contribute or offset new parks
	9.2	The CRD has approved doubling the Parks, Recreation and Culture Acquisition Levy for a new ten year plan. City tax payers are contributing to regional Parks, Recreation and Culture but the city should consult with the CRD to include our greenspaces in the terms of reference for the new CRD Master Plan. The value of the Regional Parks, Recreation and Culture needs to be learnt at home and you can educate the public to value the Regional Parks, Recreation and Culture too. We cannot continue to pay and distance ourselves from the opportunity to get public support for saving our native landscape.
	9.2	CRD levy is a potential tool.
	9.3	Pedestrian shortcuts to paths (Greenways) should be a consideration in Parks Acquisition Strategy.
	9.3	Need some good urban parks [playgrounds] for children, like in Europe
	9.3; 9.5	Although I have not reviewed the development cost charge (DCC) formula for the City of Victoria, I understand from conversations with staff that it does not fully reflect the cost of new development to existing infrastructure and parkland (i.e. parkland acquisition). Given that this is an explicit financial mechanism by which new development can pay for the impact that it has on existing infrastructure and the need for new infrastructure, DCCs are the appropriate way to pay for parkland. I recommend including a sub-policy that DCCs will be fully used to pay for parkland. I recommend removing amenity density bonus funding as a way to pay for parkland (see my comments below under 10 Plan Administration).
	9.3.3.	The term "linear waterfront access" needs definition
	9.3.3.	This is an excellent list of priorities for park acquisition. Burnside Gorge recommends that the Greenways Network be added to the acquisition list (under 9.3.3.) and that a timeline for completion of the Acquisition

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		Strategy be committed to as many of the priorities identified on the list have been identified for a long time. The need to develop this Strategy means another planning step before any action.
	9.3.3	The goal to ensure a continuous public waterfront path interspersed with pocket parks is very desirable. Gonzales Bay ought not to be overlooked but expanded by purchasing adjacent properties as they become available. Pedestrians could start the walk at the inner harbour downtown, proceed along Belleville and Humboldt Streets to the grounds of St. Ann's Academy, then via Beacon Hill Park to the Dallas Road cliffs; choose the option whether to proceed east and continue to Ross Bay cemetery (which doubles as a park) or west to Fisherman's Wharf (pocket) Park, Centennial (pocket) Park (at Laurel Point) and return to the inner harbour via sea-front Belleville Street. Alternatively, pedestrians could walk in a northerly direction from the lower causeway to Reeson (pocket) Park (junction Johnson Street bridge/Wharf Street) and proceed via the Galloping Goose trail (west of the bridge) to link with the Gorge waterfront park, then hopefully on to Colquitz Creek Park in Saanich eventually.
	9.4	<p>The Academy grounds with ancient trees and unique heritage-type orchard close to downtown is the responsibility of the Provincial Capital Commission. The goal to make them a public park was well supported during the campaign to prevent the academy from becoming a mini-shopping mall with paid admission gardens.</p> <p>Suggestion: Secure the grounds for future generations by making them a special, historic public park.</p>
<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b>	9.4	<p>Parks are for every one, not for only a select few and/or to be misused for other purposes. Even with the current population of "roughly 100,000" (expected to rise to 120,000 by 2041), park space per thousand population is less than that generally regarded as desirable. Some Victoria parks are used for dual purposes (for example: they double as school playgrounds, sports fields, used for private clubhouses, allotment gardens, entertainment, a cemetery, a so-called "fann", offices, equipment storage, parking, etc.</p> <p>Signs posted on the fence around South Park (in James Bay, bounded by Michigan, Douglas and Toronto Streets) indicate that the site is School Board property. It is one thing for the City to share South Park with the school across the street, but inadvisable to ignore the fact that it is a public park first and foremost; school usage is secondary</p> <p>Suggestion: " South Park" name signs should be posted at every entrance and both parties (school and city representatives) must sign legal documentation setting out any limitations for school use, e.g. specific times of day available to the school, necessary procedures for making any and all changes, identify whether temporary or permanent, and used for what purposes.</p>
	9.4	CRD is currently protecting land for park use but not in the core municipalities. Get involved with the terms of reference so the city can also benefit from park acquisitions.
		With further densification there will be increased demand for more public space in parks and walkways throughout the city. To ensure that future generations have access to public green-spaces, the OCP should promote a policy of "No loss of parkland". Reclaimed or new public lands may be used to create more open parkland or garden facilities available to residents.

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		Again, where is the language to fund or partner to restore and preserve native ecosystems as the quiet alternative in leisure activities in the city?
		Need an emphasis on the value of public space and a commitment to maintain and increase public park land. Nothing should be done that will reduce the park space we have now that is available to all residents to use.
		We need more greenspace, especially pocket parks and small refuges. Victoria is starved for this.
		Interest in developing more green spaces in the downtown core, particularly as the City projects an increase of downtown residents by 10,000 by 2041. The plan for a large waterfront park accessible to several neighbourhoods in the northern city section was well received. The plan for a 'courtyard' space off Douglas St as a 'haven' from an expected busy and dense transportation corridor is sensible. However, the development courtyard spaces should not be at the expense of more desirable green spaces.
	Map 5	There is a distinct absence of a greenway through our community. The introduction of an Alston Street Greenway would help to mitigate that omission.
<b>Greenways</b>	Map 5	Ensure Greenways go along water from Rock Bay north, and that there is continuity.
	Map 5	Would the OCP support Chandler path?
	9.6	Great policy.
	9.6	consider replanting boulevards with ground cover to choke out the dandelions and eliminate the need for mowing
	9.6.2	Greenway linkages: add "recreational and cultural facilities".
	9.6.2	Emphasizing trail connectivity between recreation facilities.
	9.6.2	Greenway linkages and adding green schools, community and recreation centres.
	9.6.5	Adding a food security aspect to this section and with landscape, adding fruit and nut bearing trees.
	9.6.3, 9.6.5, general	Bicycles are vehicles and belong on roads. Ripping apart Parks, Recreation and Culture to accomodate cyclists is pure nonsense. There is also zero need for food production in Parks, Recreation and Culture. Food production is monoculture and is totally in conflict with the concept of maintaining biotic diversity within Parks, Recreation and Culture.
		pleased to see the long ago planned greenways system is still on the books for completion. Can we not get some some small wins and begin to take on a street at a time to highlight what the final version may be? Selfishly, the 2600 block of capital Hts is falling apart and needs renewal
		the overall value of Greenways, that could abound throughout the City, in providing a people friendly and walkable environment within the built community
		There is zero need for bicycles being given special status within Parks, Recreation and Culture. Bikes are vehicles and should be excluded from park paths.
	9.7- 9.9	Walking and cycling are recreational activities that are not highlighted here. One in three people are introverts who do not like competition and do not participate in sports. We need to accept people instead of seeing a failure that one third of people do not participate in what you offer. Soften your approach to recreation so everyone can live in a active and healthy lifestyle according to their interests and needs.
<b>Access to Recreation</b>	9.7 and 9.9	reflecting the issue of accessibility for recreational opportunities; access to recreation including creating areas of interest; exercise opportunities for children and seniors.
	9.7	Interest in a principle that supports senior and children-friendly facilities of all kinds.

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	9.7	For one: recreational. I (and many others I know) would like to go out and do more things, like swimming or go to the movies, or go skateboarding. But I find that a lot of places charge high and ridiculous prices, and going there is just not an option.
	9.7, 15.11	I think it would be really cool if a swimming centre was set up for the age groups that you are interested in learning about, and even if it was set up for only having full swim days two days a week, it would be better being with ONLY people between 13 to 24, rather than newborn to senior.
	9.9	I feel that Victoria is lacking activities for youth. When you go downtown the only place you can go to is billiards or the movies if you are underage that is. I wish there were more venues where underage people and go. So many talented artists come to Victoria but they play at clubs because most of the money is in the alcohol. For a perfect downtown I believe there should be a rec center made for teens and young adults which could host parties and shows. This would bring more youth together and give them a place that is safe to go to on the weekends.
	9.9	I think that there should be more or one more local skate parks considering there are a couple but not enough room for all of the kids wanting to go there
	9.9	First of all, I think we should try to get one skateboard park in every community so skateboarders or bmx riders wont stop small businesses from getting more clients or customers. In every community park on the fields corner they could designate a small chunk for a skate park as the size of the Duncan skate park up the island it's equipped with lights at dark so people can see at night when they are thrashing it. Even though it won't be the size of the vic west skate park it will stop a number of skaters to take up road space and allow more safe driving.
	9.9	For my school neighbourhood, Fernwood I would love to see a local skateboard park. The park area could include a park for dogs and benches to relax on and watch the youth skateboard and bike. I also think a great place for this park would be the Vic High Fairy Tech building grounds. The building is getting torn down this summer and I am not sure what they are doing with the land.
	9.9	Also basketball and tennis courts would be great to have more of. It's not that there aren't any, it's just that some people don't want to walk a long way to the nearest basketball court to find that people are already playing there. Trying to barge into people's games can be awkward, especially when they don't really want you to play.
	9.9	. A couple other things that would be nice to have would be another skate park and maybe a Frisbee golf course since we've never had one here in Victoria. I know that a lot of people would really enjoy playing Frisbee golf. Anything that will get more people out of their house and being active is a great thing to have.
	9.9	[...I love events like VEMF. A place where we can go watch quality live music for free! There is hardly a better experience and the Victoria Electronic Music Festival remains one of my favourite times of the the year in Victoria.

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	9.9	The skate parks we have now are either really far away or trashed beyond belief. People are going to skate either way, you can't really stop them. And if the city makes a big deal about people using Cook Street hill to go down, or using sets of stairs to Ollie down then why don't they make a sanctuary for these people?
	9.9	For younger teenagers I think Victoria needs to have an amusement park. It would give them something to do on the weekends with their friends and keep them out of trouble. For older teenagers there needs to be more centers for them to play video games, stay off the streets and socialize.
	9.9	There should be groups or centers where kids can learn art, and exercise their creative sides. With all the electronics and video games, I feel that young teens are less creative than the next generation up, and we need to be able to offer chances to gain their creativeness back.
	9.9	The older teenagers of Victoria need a comfortable place to socialize. We see more and more teenagers on the streets, and having a center with amusement will help them to socialize. Some teens don't necessary feel comfortable at home, or have a troubled household and a comfortable and safe place to go is needed. I think an underage dance club, like the Sunset Room, would be perfect.
	9.9	I myself, being a new skateboarder, would like a few more skateparks in Victoria. For the current time being, I go to Westshore and Vic West and SixSide (a skatepark built for skateboarders by skateboarders), but they are so scattered that getting there can be difficult with my schedule being consumed by work and work experience. I understand that they are expensive and laborious to do, but I think it would be awesome to get one or two more built in the Greater Victoria region.
	9.9	More youth places to gather at neighbourhood level (like Vic West park)
	9.9	[...]it would be nice to have more government funded community center's for teenagers, or even a teen library containing books for a specific youth range. It could make a difference to the youth sitting next to you in the buss, or the teenager you just passed on the street.
	9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is only outdoor stuff to do in Victoria. Need more to do year-round. For ages 0-10, there are lots of private sector businesses to entertain kids.</li> <li>• We need more inexpensive things for families to do (e.g. outdoor concert, children's festival)</li> </ul>
	9.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open the parks to festivals, activities, accessibility for children with special needs</li> <li>• Need waterparks. City could assign a lifeguard.</li> <li>• Need waterpark at Crystal Pool</li> </ul>
	9.8	We don't have any access to a public recreational facility aside from a school - within a mile or so. Although is important - just don't see OCP including something that will NOT happen.
	9.8, 9.10.4	Seniors centre: need access to new buildings, drop-in activities for all (not just members). Co-location with other facilities
	9.10	Guide the development of Recreation Services Delivery Strategy in relation to Guidelines for Village and Town Centres in Land Management and Development.

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		Align the distribution of recreational services with locations of greater urban densities.
<b>Recreation Services</b>	9.10	What about aging facilities such as Fernwood Community Centre?
	9.10	I believe in facilities, but don't see any improvement in the city approach. Have lived in 4 provincial capitals. This is only one with virtually no programming for residents. Funding is provided to special interest groups, instead of community facilities/programs.
	9.10	the Rec Renewal project of 2003 / 2004 has yet to see the light of day. Where is the replacement of the Crystal pool in the OCP? What Arts Centre is being discussed? This centre would have to be regional and not a City owned project.
	9.10.4	Need for centralized community space in North Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern that other neighbourhoods (i.e. Fairfield) are provided with focused facilities</li> <li>• Crystal pool does not serve that function</li> <li>• Other spaces promised – in arena / police station – are only available at particular times</li> </ul>
		Low ratings are due to perceived understanding of city staff to issues throughout the City
	9.11-9.14	The most effective recreation activities are the unsupervised, unsanctioned activities. There is already an over-abundance of supervised activities. At-risk children will not access these activities. They need the unsupervised areas. An excellent example of this is the Moss Street Market. A commercial operation has been encouraged to evict children from an unsupervised basketball court that hosted one of the most-used unsupervised recreation areas in the city. There is a definite need for much less of this nonsense.
<b>Facilities</b>	9.11.1 Map 4,5,6	Section 9 – P. 73 – 9.1.1 notes that the vision to connect parks and open spaces with urban villages and town centres through pedestrian, cycling and greenway networks. Therefore, I recommend that they be shown (in a light colour) on Maps 4, 5 & 6.
	9.12	Crystal Pool is used by many people in Victoria and is in need of upgrading or a rebuild.
	9.12	With a geographically spread out neighbourhood structure, a central facility like Crystal pool doesn't make sense. It is not easily reached by most residents. Royal Athletic Park is more used regionally than locally. Let CRD pay.
	9.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crystal Pool needs improvements, although programs are great</li> </ul>
	9.13	Retaining public school facilities and adding the word land.
	9.13	Concerns related to the possible use of school land; retaining these facilities for educational purposes.
	9.13-14,	certainly!
	9.14	Make better use of public spaces and facilities (i.e., schools) for benefit of community
	9.14	Moss Street Market is an example of how these policies lead to abuse. It is located on a children's unsupervised play area i.e. the outdoor basketball court at Sir James Douglas School.
	9.14	the loss of Blanshard Elem School as a field of play and the mess at SJ Willis remove fields from active use. Perhaps a collaborative approach at Blanshard for a turf field is preferred over the idea at Vic High? More central to bus routes, could be shared with Finlayson turf for tournaments, etc.
9.15-9.19	Facilities/Design of Parks and Facilities I recommend directing the reading to the infrastructure chapter in one or two policies to make the link between	

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		recreation facilities and infrastructure in the City. For example, as multi purpose facilities they could be district energy hubs.
<b>Design of Parks and Facilities</b>	9.15, 9.19	What has food and eating to do with Parks, Recreation and Culture? Nothing! The Parks, Recreation and Culture of Victoria are very small and a goal such as carbon sequestration is meaningless. As for celebratory, we need far fewer large groups evicting people from their Parks, Recreation and Culture so they can have exclusive use of the space for their own activity.
	9.15-9.19	The idea of services sounds okay but again, the users of the service may like this to be quiet, natural surroundings without the fanfare and noise associated with the city's ideas of recreation: sports, concerts, festivals. In fact, it would be great if the quiet, natural activities were supported by the city with policy to protect native sensitive areas and funding to restore and expand.
	9.16	<p>Honour the two B.C. Supreme Court rulings (Justice Matthew Begbie and Justice Dean Wilson). The latter was made in response to the mayor and council seeking a legal decision whether a folk roots music festival in Beacon Hill Park would be legal. The answer was negative. "Beacon Hill Park is not for profit or utility "; it was conveyed to the City of Victoria in trust. Consider applying the same edict to all Victoria parks -no banners or amplification disturbing the peaceful park environment. Remove the fence surrounding the, "zoo" and return the space used by the children's farm to bonafide park. Demolish or relocate the police bam elsewhere -no more buildings or hard top! Relocate the parks' maintenance yard to a location outside the Park.</p> <p>The checkers' pavilion blocks the panoramic sweep of the Juan de Fuca Strait with its scenic mountain range on the horizon that extends from the far east to the far west so far as the eyes can see. During the park's early days that superb vista could be seen in its entirety from the summit of Beacon Hill. The view is special and ought to be visible in its entirety still, not obstructed mid-centre. Now boarded up to keep people out, proposals for different uses of the checker's pavilion are made from time to time notwithstanding past infamies such as slurs painted on woodwork, graffiti, urinal use, etc.</p> <p>Suggestions: Demolish or move the pavilion to another location outside Beacon Hill Park. Remove the over-size, self-naming letters advertised on the roof of the lawn bowling club and the surrounding fence. Transfer the members of that private club to the Canadian Pacific Lawn Bowling Club (720 Belleville Street) and return those vacated greens to bonafide park for use of the public at large without membership fees. Although supposed to be available to the public at large, the cricket clubhouse is always locked except when in use by members (who pay fees). That building was enlarged as a result of an arsonist who burned down the original, a situation that could occur again because there are no details posted (name of contacts, phone number, etc.), necessary to enable speedy response to emergencies).</p> <p>Make BHP vehicle-free and close the roads. The vehicles and heavy equipment driven from Park Boulevard to the parks' maintenance yard pose a danger to children who cross the driveway from the playground to reach the toilets. They are also inappropriate and unattractive in a park setting and should be driven in (if allowed at all, since they are clearly utilitarian) via the Cook Street entrance. Better still, relocate the park's maintenance yard to a location outside BHP and return the then vacant space to bonafide park, its intended use.</p>

Sub-Topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
	9.16	I have four dogs and the only place that's a certified off leash park is Dallas road. There needs to be more dog parks for people with dogs, or make more parks that don't allow dog to allow them. Also Beacon Hill Park should let off leash dogs!!
	9.16	Victoria should have more community, or youth centers where people can drop in with there friends, play pool, enjoy each others company, and make new friends.
	9.16	Open plazas where families and generations mix, "like Europe"
	9.16-9.19	If the city is willing to invest in cultural spaces, please invest in Parks, Recreation and Culture as quiet respites for those of us who need nature and tranquility.
	9.17 – 9.18	Along with more sports activities, I believe that Victoria needs more areas that you can go with your families/friends to go for walks or just hang out and have a picnic and enjoy nature. A great example is Beacon Hill Park. Having even just one more park of that size would be perfect.
	9.18	I also believe in the communities they should make many parts in Victoria such as the spring ridge commons near Victoria high school is was a great place to sit out side and enjoy nature on a small piece of land, when I went there yesterday I felt out of place and really not surrounded around cars and houses it was a really beautiful place to relax for a bit.
	9.18, 9.9	All in all, an adrenaline rush is great, but some quiet is necessary for sanity. It would be nice to have more parks, or quieter places to hangout and get fresh air. The only problem with parks is that they usually get taken over by middle-aged people, so there has to be some sort of younger attraction to the park.
	9.18	OCP places too much emphasis on celebrations. Need more on day-to-day living needs for outdoor and public space access/use.
	9.19	Replace "public eating" with another phrase. This notion has implications for introduction of food carts and other commercial food sales in public spaces including parks.
	9.19	Please do not introduce food into Parks, Recreation and Culture, it distracts the purpose of the park for me. I need a respite from the sounds and smells of food and the park is that place. With weight and dietary issues, I want to stay away from tempting treats. Encourage food services in commercial areas where I expect this type of activity. Please zone park space free from vendors. If I wish to picnic I can bring my own food and take it home again. Vendors increase the garbage in the park too.
		These parks, courts and courses need to be better known. Signs will remind the public that they're there. Also nice, big entrances will encourage people to even walk through the park, which is a start. Then next time they're hangout with there buddies they'll remember that cool, inviting park and they'll go have a good time playing soccer, football, or whatever else they want.
	9.20	Cultural District or Precinct - question as to why this was not included in the plan. Reason was that in the Arts and Cultural workshop this idea was discussed but not endorsed. Some other cities have had great success

Sub-Topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
		with it however, but Victoria has cultural facilities not just in the core areas (e.g. Belfry).
<b>Cultural Planning</b>	9.20	Arts and Cultural Plan - discussion on the next steps and timeline of the Arts and Culture Plan, explaining how the details of the broad goals in the OCP will be refined and more detailed strategies on Arts and culture will emerge through this cultural planning process.
	9.20 – 9.22	To reiterate I do feel that the arts should get its own section in the report if you want to appear that you are taking it seriously. The sad reality is that Victoria's current cultural facilities are in much worse shape than our bridges or sewer systems. The buildings are inadequate for what we require to bring culture to the community. A discussion of building new outdoor facilities or a new arts centre when we need investment in existing infrastructure is wrong. We need a comprehensive inventory of the condition of the physical infrastructure before we start adding new capacity. The library should be included in this review. A good start might be to locate the arts facilities on Map 8.
	9.21-9.22	<p>Suggestions for Parks, Recreation and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support community organizations to have community events in public spaces (workshops, art exhibits, public forums, open music venues)</li> <li>• Public art galleries (affordable and locally run)</li> <li>• Free events supporting the arts</li> <li>• Youth-friendly institutions and businesses are encouraged to have longer hours (especially if they do not serve alcohol).</li> <li>• More outdoor activities that access for local youth to support local tourism</li> <li>• Arts and 'Graffiti' space</li> <li>• Rain shelters in parks</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Spaces</b>	9.21-9.22	People also felt there weren't very many youth-friendly spaces in Victoria, especially after 9 pm. However, they felt that Victoria was quite boring even during the day. They suggested opening more social places for youth under drinking age to gather such as karaoke clubs and root beer bars.
	9.21	One other thing is music. Whenever a musician comes to town, if they aren't big or popular enough to play at Save on Foods, they play in clubs. This makes their shows unavailable to teens below the age of nineteen.
	9.21	Opening dialogue with artists concerning their needs and desires will be important here, as well as with the community at large to see what they are interested in. My Dad is a contemporary abstract artist, an alumnus and former teacher at the Victoria College of Art, and he had to move to Ottawa after trying for years to secure a studio in Victoria unsuccessfully.
	9.21	Take a comprehensive approach to cultural spaces and needs assessment: consider existing – not only new – facilities.
	9.21	Children's Museum needed on edge of downtown core, accessible to tourists and locals alike
	9.21.2	New library – include city room for plans and what's happening
	9.21.2	I would need much more information concerning the moving of the Central Library before I could approve of it.
	9.21.2, 9.21.6	The downtown library is currently at the ideal location : in the business sector and across the street from the courthouse. Library administration can be moved if more space is needed. The downtown library must not be allowed to become an entertainment multiplex. It is a library! Victoria is a cold, windy city. Outdoor festivals

Sub-Topic	Plan Reference	Feedback
		are for warm environments. Parks, Recreation and Culture are not venues for outdoor festivals.
	9.21.3 9.21.4	a new multi-purpose centre for the arts and the need for wording to recognize that decisions in this area are limited by the City's ability to provide facilities; supporting the facilities the City currently has; the population not being sufficient to support a multi-purpose centre; concerns about what is being suggested.
	9.21.3	Concerns related to the wording potentially a purpose-built centre for performing arts, and changing that to such as. Maintaining the viability of the Royal and MacPherson Theatres and acknowledging the significance and viability of these heritage buildings. The consultation process identified the potential for a purpose-built, multiple arts facility.
	9.21.3	Wording to allow for flexibility regarding the potential for an Arts Centre and concerns related to funding and population base to support such a proposal.
	9.21.3	We do not have a large enough catchment area to support three major arts facilities – and we don't want to lose the Royal and McPherson.
	9.21.6	Current city park space is not appropriate or adequate for use for large cultural events. Acquire the land, don't ruin the existing facilities.
	9.21.6	Create a festival site with all the amenities to support these types of activities - but not in Parks, Recreation and Culture. The Parks, Recreation and Culture should be areas that quiet, nature loving people can count on. This is the one public area that should be the recreation center for those who don't like to party, make noise, complete, etc.
	9.21.6	9.21.6 Who are the partners referenced? Hope you are including residents. Concerts etc should have a designated site - not in Parks, Recreation and Culture - but utilizing the city land north of the causeway - current parking lots should be converted into large vibrant public space - think Sienna.
	9.21.6, 9.22	Outdoor venues often discourage the public to enjoy their public space because the event is loud and restrictive to the space. Consider a specific site designed for this use and not our parkland.
	9.21.6, 9.22, 9.16	Find win-win solutions to accommodate larger scale events in public parks while mitigating the impact on surrounding residents (e.g. light pollution).
		Outdoor venues must be affordable to all residents. Many venues in the past, such as Folkfest, have been too expensive. I propose a "suggested donation" system of entry.