

# **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN FRAMEWORK FOR PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Approved in Principle by Council - September 23, 2010

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# OCP Community Values

During the public input, community members articulated many values and principles that would guide the content of the OCP. Many of these values cut across all of the OCP topics. The policy directions and the implementing actions of this OCP update are grounded in the following 13 community values:

1. **Whole Systems Thinking:** The OCP will consider how the different parts of the city work together to affect the whole, including the environmental, social and economic dimensions of urban life and development.
2. **One Planet Living:** The OCP will move Victoria towards a city that lives and works within its fair share of the planet's resources.
3. **Integrated Design:** The OCP will integrate the natural, built and human environments in all aspects of city-building.
4. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** The OCP will respect and respond to the perspectives, values and needs of Victoria's many individuals, groups and communities.
5. **Life Cycle Planning:** The OCP will anticipate the needs of citizens throughout their lives, from children to elders, in urban growth and change.
6. **Individual Well-Being:** The OCP will play a role in ensuring that all Victorians have secure access to basic needs, such as food, housing and services, as well as the skills and abilities required to flourish.
7. **Community Capacity Building:** The OCP will strengthen the natural, human, economic, social and cultural resources of Victoria to build, develop and shape a resilient community.
8. **Strong Local Communities:** The OCP will support and enhance the sense of place and community and uniqueness of Victoria's neighbourhoods.
9. **Downtown Vibrancy:** The OCP will reinforce the regional role of Downtown Victoria as a vibrant, engaging centre for arts, culture and entertainment, tourism, business and employment.
10. **Engaged Citizens:** The creation and implementation of the OCP will actively engage citizens and community stakeholders, and value and respect their contributions.
11. **Adaptive and Responsive:** The OCP will be flexible and adaptive, and ensure that mechanisms are in place to deal with changing, unpredictable circumstances.
12. **Regional Context:** The OCP will integrate a regional perspective, and serve to inform regional planning.
13. **Coordinated Planning:** The OCP will encourage City departments, other agencies, levels of government and community stakeholders to work collaboratively and coordinate plans, initiatives and programs.

## Land Use Management Framework - Village Centre Emphasis

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approximately 20,000 new residents are housed in compact, connected centres that include a vibrant Downtown core, town centres and neighbourhood village centres</li> <li>• a complete green network of dedicated cycling and walking routes connects the Downtown core, town centres, village centres and major community parks, major institutions and recreational amenities</li> <li>• the Downtown core, town centres, and major employment nodes are linked with rapid transit and frequent bus transit service.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Accommodate approximately 50% of forecast population and housing growth in the Downtown core Area.</p>	<p>Accommodate approximately 40% of forecast population and housing growth in a series of large scale village centres linked by rapid and frequent transit.</p>	<p>Accommodate approximately 10% of forecast population and housing growth in small scale village centres and existing neighbourhoods.</p>
	<p>Ensure that core community services and amenities are available in all town and village centres appropriate to their different scales and roles within the City.</p>	<p>Focus employment growth in the Downtown core, compact centres, major employment nodes, and along corridors served by rapid and frequent transit.</p>	<p>Encourage town and village centres to become progressively more complete, so that over time all residents can find goods and services to meet daily needs within a 15 minute walk of home.</p>

## 1. Transportation Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a network of rapid, frequent, local transit, affordable and accessible to all, conveniently connects neighbourhoods to each other, to Downtown, to the region and points beyond</li> <li>• land, air and water-borne transportation interconnect effectively and conveniently in and adjacent to Victoria's Harbour</li> <li>• goods and people move efficiently throughout the city and to neighbouring major centres and points of entry via a defined network of regional corridors</li> <li>• all parts of the transportation system function effectively together with little conflict between different modes</li> <li>• increased walking, cycling, and transit use and reductions in single occupancy vehicle use have helped the City meet and exceed its greenhouse gas reduction targets.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Give priority to pedestrians, cyclists, transit, commercial vehicles and goods movement, over single occupancy vehicles in transportation planning and investment.</p>	<p>Support the regional planning of sustainable transportation through the implementation of a land use framework that supports transit, walking and cycling at every scale from sites to areas and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Adopt a complete streets approach that ensures roadways are designed and operated to be safe, attractive and accessible for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and public transit users.</p>
	<p>Improve connections between land, air and water transportation systems.</p>	<p>Invest in transportation measures that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the proportion of walk, bike and transit trips.</p>	<p>Improve and maintain a continuous network of pedestrian and cycling routes and public facilities.</p>
	<p>Enhance the proportion of walk, bike and transit trips to and from and within Victoria through transportation demand management measures.</p>	<p>Remove barriers to mobility through a network of modes that respond to the needs of a wide range of users including physical abilities and affordability.</p>	<p>Support regional initiatives to ensure better goods movement and mobility connections.</p>

## 2. Housing and Homelessness Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>homelessness will be ended through work with CRD members, funding partners, Coalition to End Homelessness, and service agencies</li> <li>sufficient housing diversity will be available to support families, renters and seniors</li> <li>the existing housing stock will be renewed and updated</li> <li>a greater variety of affordable housing* will be available</li> <li>greater supports to housing will be in place</li> </ul>			
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Employ a comprehensive set of approaches to enable the development of a wide range of housing types, tenures and prices.	Ensure land use policies and practices facilitate the development of all levels and types of affordable housing, focusing on increasing the amount of core need and rental housing stock, including adequate housing for families.	Support diverse, complete community through inclusion of a wide range of housing choice within neighbourhoods.	Increase the amount of green and sustainable housing
	Employ a comprehensive set of approaches to address changing housing, service and amenity needs in the population.	Enable the ongoing upgrades and adaptation of the housing stock.	Support partnerships that enable stable housing with appropriate services.	

- Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation defines **affordable housing** as housing that costs less than 30% of total household income before tax. Individuals and households that pay more than 30% do not have affordable housing.

### 3. Climate Change and Energy Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• greenhouse gas emission reduction targets will be met and exceeded</li> <li>• the City will be better adapted and prepared to deal with climate change impacts and energy security issues</li> <li>• energy conservation and generation practices will enable Victoria to be more energy self sufficient.</li> </ul>			
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Establish updated City-wide greenhouse gas emission reduction policies, actions and targets.	Integrate a climate mitigation and adaptation lens into all OCP sectors.	Emphasize land use patterns that optimize climate and energy outcomes.	Partner and collaborate with the CRD, senior levels of government, utility companies and other key climate stakeholders to address climate change issues.
	Invest in transportation measures that will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the proportion of walk, bike and transit trips.	Improve energy performance of new and existing buildings.	Support solid waste management that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and exploits energy recovery opportunities.	Encourage production of renewable energy through supporting district energy and distributed generation systems.

#### 4. Economy Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Downtown core area has been strengthened as the business heart of the region</li> <li>• tourism and government services sectors are strengthened with new cultural attractions and expanded government offices</li> <li>• Victoria’s economy has expanded arts and culture, green, clean and high technology, education and health services sectors</li> <li>• economic development integrates with and enhances overall community well-being</li> <li>• Victoria’s economy generates and retains new high value enterprises that serve local and export markets and supports overall community development</li> <li>• Victoria’s workforce has the skills, abilities and experience to respond nimbly to changing economic circumstances and new opportunities.</li> <li>• Increase wealth generation among residents</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Retain and strengthen provincial employment and tourism as foundational elements of the City’s economic base.</p>	<p>Develop strategies in partnership with neighbouring jurisdictions, industry and others, to capture employment prospects in key emerging sectors, such as high technology, education, health care and arts and culture.</p>	<p>Attract and retain an adequate supply of workers for future growth and development and to transition to a green economy.</p>
	<p>Focus new office growth in core to retain Victoria’s role as the pre-eminent business centre in the region.</p>	<p>Support community economic development* as an essential strategy for social well-being.</p>	<p>Enable regional competitiveness through economic diversification and innovative industry.</p>
	<p>Foster the incubation, growth and retention of small- and medium-sized businesses</p>	<p>Enhance the economic, public amenity, and transportation attributes of the harbour.</p>	<p>Develop a retail strategy that supports land management goals of a strong Downtown core area and diverse villages.</p>

\* Community economic development (CED) is action by people within a specific geographic community or group of communities to create local economic opportunities and improve quality of life. (Source: [Western Economic Diversification Canada](#))

## 5. Neighbourhood Planning Program Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• neighbourhood planning will be based on and directed by City-wide objectives</li> <li>• strongly engaged citizens and stakeholders will play an active role in the planning of neighbourhoods</li> <li>• the planning of neighbourhoods will be integrated with the planning of town centres and neighbourhood village centres.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Provide a clear City-wide framework to direct neighbourhood planning activities.	Institute an integrated planning model that engages external agencies, City departments and stakeholder groups in neighbourhood planning.	Work towards distribution of core community services and amenities amongst the City's neighbourhoods.
	Ensure early, accessible and significant citizen engagement in neighbourhood plan development and implementation.	Explore the possibility of local planning exercises at various scales, including precincts, villages and town centres.	Ensure public engagement involves a diversity of stakeholders and citizens and reaches beyond neighbourhood associations.

## 6. Urban Design Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the built environment supports human well-being and livability at the City-wide, neighbourhood, block and individual site scales</li> <li>• natural processes encouraged in the design of the urban environment at the citywide, neighbourhood, block and the individual site scales</li> <li>• the form and function of public and private space is improved to promote vibrancy, urban connectivity and a sense of place</li> <li>• new building design and construction occur in balance with heritage conservation and reuse.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Respond to existing form and character, and geographic context, in urban design at every scale from sites and districts to neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Support leadership in green buildings and sustainable neighbourhood design, including green infrastructure and energy conservation</p>	<p>Ensure that new design builds on the special form and character and contributes to a sense of place and excellence in urban design.</p>
	<p>Beautify the urban environment by encouraging integration of nature and retention of heritage, with new landmarks and art in public spaces.</p>	<p>Strengthen the vibrancy of the Downtown and neighbourhoods through human-scale design of buildings and streetscapes, public spaces and investment in the pedestrian realm.</p>	<p>Connect and integrate the neighbourhoods to each other, to the Downtown core and to the region through design elements.</p>

## 7. Infrastructure Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• civic infrastructure is renewed and updated to maintain system performance on a sustainable basis</li> <li>• natural processes are incorporated into the design of urban infrastructure at the City-wide, neighbourhood, block and individual site scales</li> <li>• infrastructure systems are resilient to anticipated impacts of natural hazards and climate change.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Move towards closed loop systems in the management of solid waste, liquid waste, energy, air and water.	Consider ways to derive social, economic and environmental benefits from infrastructure projects.	Accommodate growth through increasing efficiency of water, sewer and stormwater systems, rather than providing additional capacity.
	Explore using natural processes to deliver infrastructure services.	Improve the ability of infrastructure systems to withstand climate change and emergency events.	Civic facilities support active transportation and use alternative energy sources.

## 8. Parks and Recreation Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• people will be connected to each other, the natural environment, parks and open spaces, and recreational opportunities</li> <li>• Victoria will be a leader in active living and healthy lifestyles</li> <li>• functioning natural ecosystems and greater biodiversity will be present throughout the City</li> <li>• recreational opportunities will have few accessibility barriers.</li> </ul>			
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Strengthen the network of high-quality parks, greenspaces, greenways, recreational spaces and amenities across the City.	Recognize the role of community and neighbourhood parks and recreational opportunities as part of a complete community.	Enhance recreational facilities, infrastructure and programming.	Enhance and expand the urban forest.

- **9. Natural Environment Directions**

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functioning natural ecosystems and greater biodiversity will be present throughout the City</li> <li>• urban environments will integrate natural processes and provide opportunities to connect with nature</li> <li>• environmentally sensitive areas will be protected</li> <li>• citizens will have an increased personal responsibility and accountability for environmental stewardship.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Conserve, restore and manage the natural diversity, habitat of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.	Move towards closed loop systems in the management of solid waste, liquid waste, energy, air and water.	Reduce and prevent air, land and water pollution.
	Strengthen the network of natural areas, parks, greenways and open space.	Support the awareness, understanding and application of ecological and sustainability principles.	Seek multiple benefits from the urban forest.

## 10. Heritage Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the historic environment supports climate action, human well-being and livability at the City-wide, neighbourhood, block and site scale</li> <li>built heritage is leveraged as key assets for community and economic development</li> <li>the resiliency of built heritage to climate impacts and other environmental risks is strengthened.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Connect green building and heritage conservation principles in rehabilitation projects, reinvestment in historic districts and neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Address the vulnerability of the built environment, including heritage properties, to the projected impacts of climate change in disaster mitigation and environmental risk assessment.</p>	<p>Invest in and support heritage rehabilitation to generate local jobs and businesses and a catalyst for urban revitalization.</p>
	<p>Promote the role and impact of heritage in sustainable tourism.</p>	<p>Connect heritage to social cohesion and inclusion in projects that repurpose historic buildings as community amenities.</p>	<p>Encourage the use of heritage properties throughout the City as affordable housing.</p>

## 11. Community Well-being Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	<p>By 2041:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• community services and facilities are easily accessible throughout the City</li> <li>• increased community and individual capacity helps citizens thrive</li> <li>• emerging community needs are anticipated and responded to on an ongoing basis</li> <li>• people feel a strong sense of security and personal safety</li> <li>• residents feel connected to their immediate community and City as a whole.</li> </ul>			
<b>Policy Directions</b>	<p>Foster an inclusive and diverse community through a fair distribution across the City of housing types, social services, public facilities and other kinds of programming and neighbourhood development.</p>	<p>Foster equitable access to shelter, community services, facilities and employment.</p>	<p>Create vital neighbourhood hubs to foster social interaction, recreation, education and service delivery.</p>	<p>Enable intergenerational neighbourhoods.</p>
	<p>Support a coordinated, comprehensive Four Pillars approach to address addiction issues (harm reduction, prevention, treatment and enforcement) that balances public order and public health.</p>	<p>Support policies that improve conditions for public health, such as increased walkability and better air quality.</p>	<p>Support the creation and enhancement of private and public spaces for people to interact.</p>	<p>Support strong sense of security and personal safety through design, programming and social interaction.</p>

- **12. Arts & Culture Directions**

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria will be the creative heart of the region</li> <li>• people will be connected to communities through arts programming and cultural amenities</li> <li>• Victoria will have a thriving arts, culture and entertainment economic sector.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Enable broad access to public enjoyment, participation in arts and culture.	Seek ways to integrate arts, culture and heritage in place-making at every scale from sites to neighbourhoods.	Encourage the development of Victoria as a cultural City to attract and retain creative workers as catalysts for innovation and economic growth.
	Animate the public realm through art in public places and festivals, celebrations and special events.	Invest in and support a wide variety of cultural spaces including outdoors venues.	

### 13. Emergency Management Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emergency management will be integrated with land use, water use and transportation systems to provide a more safe and resilient community</li> <li>• infrastructure systems and the built environment will be protected to enable the continuity of economic and social activities after emergency events</li> <li>• fire and police services will provide levels of service that ensure a safe and secure community.</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Support seismic upgrades to protect life, buildings and infrastructure in the event of an earthquake.	Provide the means for effective delivery of emergency services, including fire, police and ambulance, to all areas of the City.	Raise awareness in the community about emergency preparedness and increase the capacity of citizens to prepare and respond to emergencies.
	Demonstrate leadership in disaster mitigation by meeting post-seismic standards in new public facilities and the retrofit of City buildings and infrastructure.	Address the vulnerability of the built environment and infrastructure to the projected impacts of climate change in disaster mitigation and the Community Climate Resiliency Plan.	

## 14. Food Systems Directions

<b>Overarching Goals</b>	By 2041, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a community-based food system will enhance community health and resilience</li> <li>• Victoria’s food system will provide citizens with healthy food for daily needs</li> <li>• local uses and activities strengthen the regional food system</li> </ul>		
<b>Policy Directions</b>	Support urban food production opportunities on private and public lands.	Incorporate neighbourhood food-related amenities and services.	Strengthen the local and regional food economies.
	Facilitate the development of food-related skills and knowledge.	Support access to affordable, healthy, local food.	Increase recovery and re-use of organic wastes.