

Plan Overview

1



A NEW PLAN FOR A NEW CENTURY

The year 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of Victoria's incorporation as a city. Much has changed in the past century and a half as Victoria has grown from a colonial outpost of the British Empire and the Hudson's Bay Company into a city widely recognized for its high quality of life, heritage, physical beauty, character and charm. Victoria's next century has begun marked by challenges regarding the possible impacts of climate change, growing energy and food insecurity, infrastructure deficits and an aging population. Council, through adoption of the Victoria Sustainability Framework, has charted a course towards a future where Victoria becomes a more sustainable and resilient city in the face of this uncertainty. Development of a new Official Community Plan (OCP) that looks forward to 2041, provides an opportunity to directly address observable challenges and work towards the City's long term sustainability goals over the next 30 years.

Citywide plans in Victoria have been developed and updated roughly on a 10 year basis, generally to guide land development, provide alignment with regional plans, and respond to the issues of the day. Victoria's first citywide plan was the 1965 Overall Plan, prepared by the Capital Region Planning Board in response to the regional objectives outlined in the 1959 Capital Region Development Policy. The Overall Plan aimed to balance urban renewal and redevelopment with the conservation of heritage. This was followed by the 1977 Community Plan created in response to the 1974 Official Regional Plan, and in 1986 by Victoria's first OCP, which established city-wide goals and policies respecting land use,

transportation, parks and open space, with a particular emphasis on stable neighbourhoods and a developing core. In 1995, the City reviewed and updated the OCP adding new policy direction respecting social planning, preservation of environmental quality, and recognition of the role that arts and culture play in the city. In 2005 the OCP was amended to include a Regional Context Statement outlining how it contributed to Victoria's commitments through the Capital Regional District Regional Growth Strategy.

Council's approved project charter for the development of this plan, directed that it:

- › Meet the legislative requirements for an OCP;
- › Refine the Victoria Sustainability Framework goals related to community planning and develop policies to achieve them;
- › Establish an approach to local area planning grounded in a consideration of the city-wide context;
- › Establish a future land use management pattern for the city; and,
- › Develop courses of action for a more sustainable Victoria.

This plan strives to fulfill this mandate through policies that support Victoria continuing to develop as a city that is a **great place** and the **heart of the region**, composed of **vibrant urban villages**, with well **integrated land use and transportation** and **sustainable community infrastructure**; a **greener**, more **resilient**, and **healthy city**, that takes a **comprehensive approach to housing**.

PLAN ORGANIZATION

The plan is divided into four parts:

Part 1 – Introduction, sections 1 – 5, sets the context for the plan, including its purpose and scope, and linkages to other City plans; identifies the general vision and goals of the plan; summarizes the trends and issues facing Victoria; and, outlines how the plan responds to the regional growth strategy policy context.

Part 2 – Policy Directions, sections 6 – 17, establishes the plan policies in 12 topic areas, including Land Management and Development; Transportation and Mobility; Placemaking; Parks, Recreation and Culture; Environmental Management; Infrastructure; Housing and Homelessness; Economy; and, Community Well-Being. Part 2 also includes policy related to Climate Change and Energy; Food Systems; and, Emergency Management. Each section begins with a brief statement of the topic context, challenges faced, and broad approach articulated through the objectives and policy statements that follow.

Part 3 – Implementation, sections 18 – 23, defines the policies respecting plan administration, an approach to local area planning in the context of city-wide policy, summarizes general directions for local area plan preparation by neighbourhood, and a framework for implementation, adaptive management and ongoing performance monitoring.

The plan concludes with **Part 4 – Appendices**, which includes development permit, heritage conservation area, and development approval information area guidelines, a glossary of terms, and a plan index.