



Accessory Dwelling Unit: A residential use clearly ancillary and subordinate to the primary residential dwelling on a lot, including secondary suites within the primary dwelling, and garden suites located in free-standing accessory buildings.

Accessible: Services, sites, facilities, programs, housing and transportation that are open to everyone, regardless of income, ability, race, gender, geographical region, ethnic and/or cultural background.

Adaptation: Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects. Various types of adaptation exist, including anticipatory and reactive, private and public, and autonomous and planned. Examples include raising coastal dikes, rainwater harvesting, and the use of more temperature-shock resistant plants.

Adaptive Capacity: The ability of natural and human systems to accommodate changes in climate with minimum disruption or minimum additional cost.

Advanced Technology: The design, research, manufacture, testing and servicing of commercial products including computer software and hardware, in the fields of electronics, telecommunications, engineering, robotics, bio-technology, health care, and related industries. Also known as “High Tech”.

Affordable Housing: Non-market housing supplied whether by the public, private, or non-profit sector and targeted at a range of incomes, most often at the low or moderate end of the scale, with few, if any, on-site supports provided where housing costs are subsidized through various sources, and may be geared to income.

Affordable Housing (Core Need): Permanent, affordable housing that targets those in core housing need, with few, if any, on-site support services are provided., where most tenants are on income assistance, old age, or disability pensions.

Affordable Housing (Rent Geared to Income): Permanent, affordable housing that features a mix of low to middle income families, including the working poor with few, if any, on-site support services are provided, and where rents are geared to income.

Affordability Index: Median household income needed by a two-parent family with two children to afford an adequate standard of living in a given region, expressed as ours worked per week at an hourly wage or gross annual income.

Aging in Place: A concept that supports the opportunity for residents to remain living in their own neighbourhood or community as they age through the availability of appropriate services, facilities and housing options.

Allotment Garden: A parcel of land operated by members that it used for the production of produce, native plants, edible berries, food perennials and flowers for the personal use of its members, where membership provides access to garden plots of allotments on the parcel.

Apartment: A dwelling located in multi-unit buildings that accesses the ground via shared corridors, entrances and exits.

Art in Public Places: Original artwork selected, commissioned, created or donated for location in public space, and created by an artist.

The Arts: Element of culture that includes visual media (painting, print-making, drawing, sculpture, crafts, pottery/ceramics, photography, film and video), theatre, music, song, spoken word, literary arts and dance.

Arterial Road: A street that typically emphasizes a high level of traffic mobility at higher speeds and volumes and a low level of property access, serving longer distance trips including those between major activity centres and regional destinations. Secondary arterials represent a sub-classification of this street type.

Assisted Living: Self-contained dwelling units for seniors and persons with disabilities, who can direct their own care but need some support services to live independently, such as services for mobility, personal care and daily meals.

Attached Dwelling: A building used or designed as three or more self-contained dwelling units each having direct access to the outside at grade, where no dwelling unit is wholly or partly above another dwelling unit, including townhouses and row-houses.

Attached Housing: Any form of housing where more than two individual dwellings are structurally attached including duplexes, townhouses, row-houses, and apartments regardless of tenure.

Baseline: An initial measurement for an indicator tracked in monitoring the condition or performance of a system or the effectiveness of a policy or strategy over time.

Benchmark: A standard of achievement for a given quantitative measure against which performance can be assessed.

Biocapacity: The capacity of ecosystems, expressed as global hectares per capita, to produce useful biological materials and to absorb the waste generated by humans, using current technology and management practices.

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms - animals, plants, their habitats and their genes – from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Boarding House: Dwelling in which rooms are rented and meals are provided to multiple occupants other than members of the family of the occupier. A boarding house does not include a dwelling in which meals are prepared within rented room, or a community care facility.

Brownfield Sites: Underutilized, vacant, or derelict industrial or commercial sites that may be contaminated.

Building: Anything constructed or placed on a lot used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use, excluding landscaping, docks, wharfs and piers.

Bylaw: A law passed and adopted by the City under powers granted by provincial legislation.

Capital Budget: The Capital Budget includes new, additions to, or major renovations to existing City assets, which enhances or prolong the life of those assets over a twenty year term, as defined by the City's Capital Asset Policy.

Capital Region: The geographic area generally from Port Renfrew through to the Southern Gulf Islands including the Victoria Metropolitan Area, that comprises the jurisdiction of the Capital Regional District.

Capital Regional District (CRD): A local government established under provincial legislation, providing coordinated regional services to both urban and rural areas on southern Vancouver Island, comprised of a federation of municipalities and electoral areas managed by a board of directors appointed from the member municipalities and directly elected from electoral areas.

Character-Defining Elements: Materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings that contribute to the heritage value of a heritage resource, which must be retained in order to preserve its heritage value.

Civic Engagement: Timely and meaningful citizen and stakeholder involvement in civic priority setting, decision-making, program development, and service delivery. The goal is to ensure that the decision-making is well-informed and offers citizens the chance to contribute their ideas and knowledge to policy development.

Citizens: The wider community and the general public, including people who are not officially voters.

Clear Zone: The walking zone of a sidewalk or footpath that must remain clear both horizontally and vertically for the movement of pedestrians.

Coastal Sediment Processes: The forces that erode, transport and deposit sediment along shorelines. Natural coastal sediment processes support habitat for marine life, maintain an equilibrium between erosion and deposition, and create distinct forms of shoreline (e.g. estuaries, sandy beaches, rocky shoreline, sand and gravel bars).

Collector Road: A street that typically balances traffic mobility with access to property, distributing trips from arterial streets through to ultimate destinations and collecting traffic from local street in residential areas and channelling it to the arterial system.

Cooperative Housing (Co-op): A housing development in which individual members own a share in the co-operative, where the share grants equal access to common areas, voting rights and occupancy of a dwelling unit as if they were owners.

Community Care Facilities: Facilities that provide care to vulnerable, dependent people in child day care, child/youth residential and adult residential settings.

Community Development: The process of a community strengthening itself and developing towards its full potential.

Community Garden: A piece of land gardened by a group of people for the purpose of providing a garden experience/education to citizens of a municipality. Community gardens are offered in partnership between the municipality and community-based organizations and are subject to all policies and bylaws governing public lands.

Community Services: An inclusive term that encompasses the broadest range of public and non-profit provided services to people, including social, health, and education.

Community Well-Being: A concept that refers to an optimal quality of healthy community life. Community well-being is only possible when the basic needs of all citizens are met and citizens have the skills and abilities to contribute to their own well-being, and the well-being of the community.

Commuter Rail Transit: Rail based public transit focused on peak periods and peak directions intended primarily to link suburban communities with an urban region's business core, providing a safe, convenient and more environmentally friendly alternative to automobile travel for journey to work trips.

Complete Community: Multiple-use urban community that contains within its boundaries, the full range of facilities and activities necessary to meet typical household needs for employment, shopping, personal services, recreation, housing, education and other goods and services. Complete communities typically are defined by what they are not, that is, single-use residential areas that serve a largely dormitory function to a larger centre, with few local opportunities to meet the broad range of household needs described.

Complete Streets: Transportation facilities that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users – pedestrians, cyclists, public transit passengers and vehicles, commercial vehicles and automobiles. Users of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

Core Housing Need: A household is said to be in Core Housing Need if its housing falls below at least one of the adequacy, suitability, or affordability standards and it would have to spend 30 percent or more of its total before-tax income to pay the median rent of alternative housing that is acceptable (meets all 3 criteria): 1) Adequate dwellings are those reported by their residents as not requiring any major repairs; 2) Suitable dwellings have enough bedrooms for the size and make-up of resident households, according to National Occupancy Standard (NOS) requirements; and, 3) Affordable dwellings cost less than 30% of total before-tax household income.

Creative Industries: Those industries that have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent, and have a potential for wealth and job creation through generating and exploiting intellectual property.

Critical Infrastructure: Physical and information technology facilities, networks, services and assets, which if disrupted or destroyed would have a serious impact on the health, safety, security or economic well-being of Canadians or the effective functioning of governments in Canada (Source: Government of Canada).

Cultural Landscapes: Geographic area or property with character-defining elements that are the result of human interaction with the environment, or which represent the social, cultural or heritage values of a community.

Cultural Industries: Economic sector and businesses involving creativity including advertising, architecture, artisan crafts, fashion design, film and video, art and antique markets, industrial design, music and performing arts, print media and publishing, television and radio and visual arts.

Cultural Spaces: Locations or facilities for artists and other cultural producers.

Culture: Practices and values, heritage and place, the arts, diversity and social history.

Density: A measure of the intensity of occupancy and use of the land, generally described in terms of persons per hectare, or dwelling units per hectare, or a ratio of the built floor area of a structure to the area of the lot it occupies.

District Energy System: A recognized approach to meeting the thermal needs of energy consumers at a building level and at a community level, including heating, cooling and domestic hot water needs.

Dwelling Unit: Any room or suite of rooms, intended for use by one household exclusively as a place of residence.

Ecological Footprint: Measure how much biologically productive land and water is required to produce the resources consumed and absorb the waste generated by humans using current technology and management practices.

Ecological Function: The physical conditions, habitat, and ecological processes that sustain a particular biological community. A change or disruption to ecological function can result in a change or loss in habitat type, with resulting loss of species that depend on the specific habitat type.

Ecosystem: A community of plants, animals, insects and micro-organisms that are linked by energy and nutrient flows and live, feed, reproduce and interact with each other and with the physical environment. Ecosystems have no fixed boundaries; a single lake, a watershed, or an entire region could be considered an ecosystem.

Ecosystem Services: The transformation of natural assets (soil, plants and animals, air and water) into things that people value. They can be viewed as provisioning such as food and water; regulating, for example, flood and disease control; cultural such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; or supporting like nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

Ecosystem 'goods' include food, medicinal plants, construction materials, tourism and recreation, and wild genes for domestic plants and animals.

Emergency shelter: Short-stay housing for overnight use only. Temporary or seasonal service, typically in response to 'extreme weather' conditions. Barriers may include restrictions on age, gender, pets or substance use.

Employment Districts: Those areas designated for clusters of employment uses and economic activities.

Employment Uses: A mix and range of office, industrial, warehousing, transportation and logistics, construction, communication, technology, commercial and financial services, retail and wholesale, institutional, research, education, public service and similar or related land uses and activities.

Energy: The amount of work or heat delivered. Energy is classified in a variety of types and becomes useful to human ends when it flows from one place to another or is converted from one type into another. Primary energy (also referred to as energy sources) is the energy embodied in natural resources (e.g., coal, crude oil, natural gas, uranium) that has not undergone any anthropogenic conversion. This primary energy needs to be converted and transported to become usable energy (e.g. light). Renewable energy is obtained from the continuing or repetitive currents of energy occurring in the natural environment, and includes non-carbon technologies such as solar energy, hydropower, wind, tide and waves, and geothermal heat, as well as carbon neutral technologies such as biomass. Embodied energy is the energy used to produce a material substance (such as processed metals or building materials), taking into account energy used at the manufacturing facility (zero order), energy used in producing the materials that are used in the manufacturing facility (first order), and so on.

Evaluation: A rigorous, structured, and clear sighted assessment of ongoing or completed activities to determine the extent to which they are achieving stated objectives.

Farmers Market: Markets that feature locally-grown or locally-processed foods, and whose vendors produce, process or create the products.

Fee Simple: Private ownership of property in fee simple with no strata-title ownership or obligations.

Financial Plan: A bylaw required by provincial legislation that includes both the City's Operating Budget (5 years) and the City's Capital Budget (20 years).

Five Pillars: A coordinated, comprehensive approach to addictions that balances public order and public health to create safer and healthier communities. The five pillars approach (1) prevention; 2) harm reduction; 3) treatment & supportive recovery; 4) stable housing with supports; and 5) enforcement) is intended to dramatically reduce the amount of on-the-street consumption, deaths, and disease association with addictions. A Five Pillars approach is distinct from traditional Four Pillars approach in that it recognizes housing as its own pillar.

Floor Space Ratio: The ratio of the total floor area of a building to the area of the lot on which it is situated.

Food Infrastructure: Physical, social and economic elements necessary to support food production, processing, distribution and waste management in a given area (e.g. abattoirs, warehouses, vehicles, veterinarians, seed distributors, grazing pasture)

Food Production: The raising of the “raw products” of the food system, including fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey and other products, using a variety of methods.

Food Security: A situation that exists when people have secure access to sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth, development and an active and healthy life. Food insecurity may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power, inappropriate distribution, or inadequate use of food at the household level.

Food System: An interconnected network of practices, processes and places involved in feeding a population, including food production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food and food-related items, and the inputs and outputs at each stage.

Foodshed: The geographic area that supplies a population centre with food.

Frequent Transit: Transit service that provides medium to high density land use corridors with a convenient, reliable, and frequent (15 minutes or better) transit service all day long. The goal of the Frequent Transit network is to allow people to spontaneously travel without having to consult a transit schedule. The Frequent Transit network carries a large share of the transit system's total ridership and for this reason justifies capital investments such as transit priority, right of way improvements, a high level of transit stop amenities, and corridor branding.

Functional Classification: A system in which streets and highways are grouped into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide.

Gateway: Physical and spatial elements that mark a primary point of entry to a defined area within a city, that may include open space, buildings, decorative structures, signage, or other special design features.

Green Infrastructure: An adaptable term used to describe an array of products, technologies, and practices that use natural systems – or engineered systems that mimic natural processes – to enhance overall environmental quality and provide utility services. As a general principle, Green Infrastructure techniques use soils and vegetation to infiltrate, evapotranspire and/or recycle stormwater runoff (Source: US Environmental Protection Agency).

Green Space: Any vegetated land including bodies of water whether public or private within or adjoining an urban area.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of thermal infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. This property causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour (H₂O), carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O), methane (CH₄) and ozone (O₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. Moreover, there are a number of entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine and bromine containing substances, dealt with under the Montreal Protocol. Beside CO₂, N₂O and CH₄, the Kyoto Protocol deals with the greenhouse gases sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs).

Greenways: A city-wide network of pathways and bikeways situated on streets, along shoreline areas, and in natural corridors that link parks, employment districts, urban villages and other destinations along routes that give priority to walking and cycling and feature an attractive, well landscaped ambience including street trees and boulevard plantings, view points, heritage resources, and natural habitat areas.

Ground Oriented Dwelling: A residential unit that has individual and direct access to the ground, whether detached or attached, including single-detached dwellings, duplexes, rowhouses and townhouses, as well as both units in houses that include single family dwellings with secondary suites.

Group Residences: Private residences accommodating a maximum of six residents that enable adults with disabilities to live as independently as possible in the community through provision of housing and support services.

Habitat: The place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

Harbour: Portion of Victoria's marine waterfront extending from the Ogden Point breakwater to Selkirk Trestle, designated Working Harbour on Map 1.

Harbour Pathway: A currently incomplete public multi-purpose pathway running along the Victoria Harbour south and east shore between Ogden Point and Rock Bay.

Harm Reduction: A principle of public health that treatment of those suffering from substance addiction focus on the harm caused by problematic substance use, rather than substance use per se.

Heritage Impact Assessment: Study that provides information on the possible effects of development activity on heritage property.

Heritage Character: Overall effect produced by traits or features which give property or an area a distinctive appearance or quality.

Heritage Conservation: Includes, in relation to heritage, any activity undertaken to protect, preserve or enhance the heritage value or character-defining elements of heritage property or an area.

Heritage Designation: Bylaw to protect a heritage resource or property from exterior alterations, removal or demolition without the approval of City Council

Heritage Register: Identifies real property that is considered by the local government to have heritage value or heritage character.

Heritage Rehabilitation: The action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a heritage resource or an individual component, through repair, alterations, or additions, while protecting its heritage value.

Heritage Resource or Property: A structure, building, group of buildings, district, landscape, archaeological site or other place in Canada that has been formally recognized for its heritage value.

Heritage Value: The aesthetic, historic, scientific, cultural, social or spiritual importance or significance for past, present or future generations. The heritage value of a heritage resource is embodied in its character-defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings.

High-Rise Building: A building ten storeys and greater in height, also known as a tall building.

Housing Affordability: A condition respecting both market and non-market dwellings, in which total housing costs fall within the financial means of a household. Total costs for rent or mortgage plus taxes (including a 10% down payment), insurance and utilities should equal 30 percent or less of a household's gross annual income (unless by choice), defined as the first two income quartiles for the City of Victoria. Housing affordability is influenced by household income, and cost and supply of housing.

Housing Continuum: A framework for understanding the range of housing choices available to meet differing needs for housing cost, tenure and support services.

Housing First: An approach to housing where homeless residents are provided immediate access to a place of their own without requiring treatment or sobriety as a precondition for housing. Residents are provided with options for support services for their recovery and integration into the community.

Human Scale: The experience of comfort and fit between the size (height, distance, areal extent, details) of physical surroundings and its natural and built elements relative to the size of a human person with normal vision, hearing and walking ability. In urban areas, human scale represents features and characteristics of buildings and public spaces that can be fully observed and apprehended from a standing position at grade, and reached within a short time at a normal walking pace. In contrast, automobile scale represents a built environment where buildings, sites, and signs are designed to be apprehended and reached by an observer moving at the speed of an automobile.

Indicator: Indicators are discrete, mutually exclusive units of measurement that measure inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes, as well as other aspects of performance that need to be monitored, such as service quality and cost. Process indicators measure inputs, activities and outputs. Outcome or impact indicators measure intended results.

Indoor Recreation Facility: Public and private spaces that support indoor recreation, sports and leisure activities. Indoor recreation facilities include spaces such as arenas, gymnasiums, swimming pools, fitness centres, community centres, seniors centres, common recreation spaces in multi-unit dwellings, and not including private residences.

Infrastructure: The physical capital and associated services considered basic and necessary to the functioning of an urban area. These include such things as: sanitary sewers, treatment plants, and water pipelines and distribution/collection systems; roads, signals, sidewalks and other components of the transportation system including transit vehicles, ferries and airports; solid waste management facilities including transfer stations and landfills; and, energy supply and distribution systems including hydroelectric and natural gas transmission and distribution systems. More generally, infrastructure can refer to other tangible public and private assets necessary to support the development of a modern urban settlement, such as hospitals, schools and recreation facilities.

Intensification: The development of a property, site or area at a higher density than currently exists through: a) redevelopment, including the reuse of brownfield sites; b) the development of vacant and/or underutilized lots within previously developed areas; c) infill development; and, d) the expansion or conversion of existing buildings.

Landmarks: Natural hilltops and built structures that by their prominence visually punctuate the physical profile of urban areas and express its skyline character. Landmarks generally are taller than the surrounding built fabric of a city, are visible from a distance, may exhibit a higher level of architectural design detail and articulation, and often serve important civic functions, including such public assembly uses as places of worship or seats of government. A crowning structure situated at or near the apex of a natural hilltop gives the hilltop extra emphasis as a landmark.

Light Pollution: Excessive or obtrusive artificial light, and resulting impacts on adjacent development, ecosystems, human health and illumination of the night sky.

Local Food: Food that is produced or processed within the Capital Regional District.

Local Roads: Streets with low levels of traffic mobility and a high level of land access, serving residential, commercial and industrial areas that fall under the conventional functional classification of local streets.

Local Transit: Transit network and service designed to connect neighborhoods to local destinations and to Rapid and Frequent Transit services. Local transit services allow customers to plan a trip to work, school, local shopping centre or personal trips by transit. Frequency and vehicle type are selected based on demand. In some cases smaller transit vehicles can be utilized to better match passenger demand and operating conditions on local roads.

Lock-Off Suite: A self contained accessory dwelling unit within an apartment unit with a door onto the common hallway.

Low Barrier Housing: Transitional housing with on-site staffing that targets those with mental health and/or addictions. Ideally time-limited, with goal of transition to 'next-step' or permanent housing,

Low-Income Cut Off: A Statistics Canada measure of the income level at which a family may be in straitened circumstances because it has to spend a greater portion of its income on the basic (food, clothing, and shelter) than does the average family of similar size. The Low-Income Cut Off varies by family size and by community.

Low-Rise Building: A building four storeys or less in height.

Major Roads: Streets in urban areas that are multimodal in nature and fall under the conventional functional classes of arterial and collector streets.

Market Rental: Private rental housing with rent determined by the market. Subsidies may be provided to individuals so tenants can access rental housing that is otherwise unattainable at current income. Forms of market rental housing include tenant-occupied single detached, duplex and apartment units; rented condominium units; rooming houses; and accessory apartments such as self contained basement suites, secondary suites, garden suites, and other forms of rental housing

Mid-Rise Building: A building from five to nine stories in height.

Mid-Block Walkway: A defined crossing of a public street located approximately at the middle of the block, with pedestrian priority improvements including such things as a painting crossing, curb bulbs, signage, pedestrian refuges, and pedestrian activated crossing signals.

Mixed Use: Different uses in relatively close proximity either in the same building (apartments above a store) or on the same or an adjacent site (light industry adjacent to an office building).

Mixed Use Area: Areas comprised of a mix of land uses, scales and densities that provide some level of internal pedestrian connectivity.

Mobility: The movement of people and goods within the transportation system.

Monitoring: A continuous, systematic process of collecting and analyzing information using indicators, to track progress towards intended results.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: A systematic approach to carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities for a given plan or policy.

Multiple Dwelling: A building containing three or more dwelling units.

Natural Capital: The source or supply of resources and services that are derived from nature (e.g. minerals, water, waste assimilation, carbon dioxide absorption, habitat, fossil fuels, recreation).

Neighbourhood: Named geographic sub-areas recognized either informally or formally for their unique local character within a city. The City formally divides Victoria into thirteen neighbourhoods: Burnside, Downtown, Fairfield, Fernwood, Gonzales, Harris Green, Hillside/Quadra, James Bay, Jubilee, North Park, Oaklands, Rockland, and Victoria West.

Non-Market Rental Housing: Housing that is rented at a price that is not set by market forces but set and controlled over time by some other means. Affordable housing is subset of non-market housing.

Official Community Plan (OCP): Under the Local Government Act, a general statement of the broad objectives and policies of the local government respecting the form and character of existing and proposed land use and servicing requirements in the area covered by the plan.

One Planet Footprint: Where a jurisdiction's ecological footprint is equal to the Earth's current biocapacity. For example Canada's ecological footprint is 5.7 global hectares consumed per capita and the Earth's biocapacity is 1.8 global hectares available per capita. This suggest that it would take three Earths for all humans to live the way Canadian's do, thus requiring a two thirds reduction in Canada's ecological footprint to achieve a one-planet foot print. Source: Global Footprint Network.

Operating Budget: The operating budget identifies over a five year term the revenues and expenditures required to operate City departments.

Open Space: Land that provides outdoor space for unstructured or structured leisure activities, recreation, ecological habitat, cultural events or aesthetic enjoyment that is publicly-accessible but not held by the City of Victoria.

Outdoor Recreation Facility: Public and private space that supports outdoor recreation, sports and leisure activities. Outdoor recreation facilities include spaces such as parks, beaches, sports facilities and fields, playgrounds, and pathways.

Park: Open land held by the City of Victoria that provides outdoor space for unstructured or structured leisure activities, recreation, ecological habitat, cultural events, or aesthetic enjoyment, not including planted areas within street rights of way.

Place Character: The combination of street and lot patterns, landscape features, building forms, and activities that collectively determine the experiential and visual character of a place.

Placemaking: A holistic and community-based approach to the development and revitalization of cities and neighbourhoods, that creates unique places of lasting value that are compact, mixed-use, and pedestrian and transit oriented with a strong civic character.

Public Realm or Public Space: All exterior places, linkages and built form elements that are physically or visually accessible. These elements can include, but are not limited to, streets, pedestrian ways, bikeways, bridges, plazas, nodes, squares, gateways, parks, waterfronts, natural features, view corridors, landmarks, and building interfaces.

Public Vantage Points: Defined public outdoor locations from where a view or vista is obtained.

Quartiles (Income): The levels of income which divide income earners into the lowest 25 percent, the lowest 50 percent, and the lowest 75 percent of all income earners.

Rapid Transit: Transit service designed to move high volumes of passengers between major regional destinations along key transportation corridors. Services are very frequent (15 minutes or better) and stop less often than traditional transit services. The level of investment in Rapid Transit infrastructure, technology, vehicles, and service levels combine to greatly increase system performance. To improve travel time and reliability Rapid Transit utilizes an exclusive (Exclusive Corridor) or semi-exclusive (Priority Corridor) right of way to eliminate or significantly reduce the impact of general traffic on transit vehicles. Rapid services use high capacity transit vehicle technologies such as light rail and bus rapid transit vehicles. Other investments required along the corridor are premium transit stations, corridor branding and off-board ticketing.

Recreation Facilities: Public and private spaces that support both indoor and outdoor recreation, sports and leisure activities. (see Outdoor Recreation Facility and Indoor Recreation Facility)

Regional Food: Food that is produced or processed on Vancouver Island.

Rooming House: Building in which rooms are rented, and tenants pay a fixed sum periodically for accommodation without board or cooking privileges.

Row House: An attached dwelling on its own legal parcel with a formal street address.

Sense of Place: The subjective experience of a place as having physical and social attributes that make it distinctive and memorable.

Shared Accommodation: Category of housing that includes rooming houses and boarding houses.

Short Term Stay Shelter: Short-stay housing of 30 days or less. May provide single or shared bedrooms or dorm-type sleeping arrangements, with varying levels of support to individuals.

Single Occupancy Vehicle: A motor vehicle typically occupied by the driver alone.

Special Events: Events in public space with community benefits, which require a City permit to be held.

Stakeholders: Organizations, community groups, and more formal associations that are representative of the wider community and have related interests.

Strata-Title: Private ownership of individual apartment or unit within a multi-unit property, with collective ownership of common areas.

Statements of Significance: Written analysis of a heritage resource, or property, that includes a physical description, an assessment of heritage value, and a list of character-defining elements.

Storey: The space between two floors or between any floor and the roof next above, not including a basement or crawlspace.

Street Wall: The wall of a building which fronts upon the nearest street whether at or above the ground.

Supported Housing: Provides long-term housing and ongoing supports to residents who have difficulty living independently, such as people with mental illness or disabilities. Supports are often provided through case management and outreach, rather than on-site staffing. This form of housing may be located in purpose-designated housing, housing cooperatives or other government funded housing for people with low incomes.

Supportive Housing: Transitional housing with on-site staffing that targets those with mental health and/or addictions. Residency is often limited (1–3 years), with the goal of transition to more permanent housing. Support services can be provided through outreach or on-site.

Sustainable Development (SD): A process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspirations. SD integrates political, social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions.

Target: A specific, measurable, time-bound object of policy described by a statement that contains a verb, a qualifier (minimum or maximum), a target level, an object, a level of geography and a timeframe, as illustrated in this example: “Accommodate [verb] a minimum [qualifier] of 15% [target level] of the region’s cumulative new dwelling units [object] with the City of Victoria [level of geography] to 2026 from the baseline year [timeframe].”

Town House: An attached dwelling that is part of a strata-title development whether ground-oriented or at grade or facing an internal courtyard or exterior passageway in a high-rise building.

Traffic Calming: Physical or management measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of traffic.

Transient Accommodation: Accommodations for persons who normally reside elsewhere including hotels, motels, bed and breakfasts, guest houses, emergency shelters and hostels.

Transition House: Housing targeted to women (often with children) fleeing violent or at-risk domestic situations. The goal is to provide safe and secure housing on an interim basis, often up to one year, while the family circumstance becomes more stable.

Transitional Housing: Housing from 30 days to two or three years that includes the provision of support services, on- or off-site, to help people move towards independence and self-sufficiency. Transitional housing is often called second-stage housing, and includes housing for women fleeing abuse.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): A wide range of measures, policies and initiatives to encourage more people to make more trips using sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling, vanpool and public transit, and make less trips using single occupancy automobiles. TDM includes incentives such as deep discount public transit passes, priority for transit and high occupancy vehicles on highways, enhanced facilities and institutional support for cycling and walking, and information and educational programs regarding the safety and health benefits of active transportation. TDM disincentives include restrictions of automobile parking supply, increases to parking costs and promotional efforts to show the adverse social, economic, environmental and climate change impacts of continuing automobile dependency.

Urban Amphitheatre: An urban design concept describing a transition in the scale of buildings within the Downtown Core Area, beginning with low building forms at the harbour in the Urban Core Historic district with a gradual rise in height to the City's tallest buildings in the Urban Core Business district.

Urban Design: Urban design is concerned with the human-made environment. It is a discipline that is dedicated to the relationships among the fields of urban planning, architecture and landscape architecture. The concerns of urban design range from a broad level, such as the layout of entire cities, to particular aspects of designed environments such as architectural detailing, landscaping and street furniture.

Urban Fabric: The composite form and character of a city, and its elements at every scale from neighbourhoods and districts to streets, blocks and sites.

Urban Food Production: Food production activities that occur within the City of Victoria boundaries.

Urban Forest: Sum total of all trees and their associated ecosystems, including understorey and soils, within the City of Victoria. The urban forest is the entire collection of trees located on both public and private lands, including parks, boulevards, remnant ecosystems, residential yards, commercial and industrial lands and open spaces.

Values-Based Conservation: Heritage conservation that seeks to preserve the heritage value of heritage resources, or property.

Walkable: A community is walkable when it is scaled, dimensioned and provided with facilities and a mix of uses and activities that make walking an easy, convenient way to get around to people of all ages and abilities. As a general rule most people will not walk much more than 10 minutes to shop or reach services such as libraries and schools. To meet this standard, a community would have a shopping and service centre no more than 600–700 metres from most residences, with a sidewalk and street environment scaled to be interesting and inviting to people on foot.

Walkshed: Where the typical human walking speed is approximately 4–5 kilometres per hour, the radius of an area that can be reached on foot from a central starting point within 5 minutes, or a walking distance of approximately 400 metres. Generally, transit planners assume that people will walk longer (10 minutes) to a greater distance (800 metres) to reach a rapid transit station.

Way finding: A system of signage, distinctive physical features and information that aid in the navigation of urban areas, primarily but not limited to pedestrians.

Zoning: The division of the city by bylaw into discreet areas in which the use and development of land, including the density, siting, size and height of buildings, and the shape, area and dimensions of parcels, are regulated.