

NEW WESTMINSTER'S OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE



Newsletter Vol. 3



Sketch of New Westminister looking into the future, created at the Neighbourhood Visioning Process

WHAT have we been up to?

In February, the City hosted the OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning Process. This process included four phases: the LOVE OUR CITY Workshop, Processing Results, an Open House and a Final Report. The key themes of these events were:

LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Where is the heart of your neighbourhood? What would make it even better?

A GROWING CITY

How can new growth (housing and commercial) appropriately fit into your neighbourhood?

BIG MOVES TOWARDS A GREAT CITY

What big moves do you think would make OUR CITY even greater?

The LOVE OUR CITY Workshop was attended by over 150 community members who were inspired by special guest speaker Charles Montgomery, author of "Happy City". Attendees explored the three key themes in different activities throughout the day.

During the Processing Results phase, consultants worked with staff and the Advisory Group (volunteer community members appointed by Council) to further develop and refine the ideas generated during the Workshop. Ideas from the workshop were illustrated in the form of sketches, plans, and diagrams (like the one seen above).

An Open House was held to present all of the material produced during the LOVE OUR CITY Workshop and Processing Results phases. Community members were invited to drop in, review the materials and give their feedback.

A Final Report summarizes the overall process and findings. This document, and the outputs of the whole Visioning Process will be used to help update the Official Community Plan. Visit us online to learn more about what we heard: www.newwestcity.ca/ourcity.

To read about the Draft Vision and Goals produced using input from the OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning Process and find a link to the survey, flip the page!



OUR CITY DRAFT VISION AND GOALS

VISION

The vision is a vivid description of the community's aspirations for the future of the city. It provides a clear, yet brief direction for the OCP. The following is the draft vision:

How were the draft VISION & GOALS created?

Staff used the public input (the Neighbourhood Visioning Process, Traveling Community Workshop and Pop Up Planning), Envision 2032, and research conducted to date to create a draft vision and a draft goal for each of the Official Community Plan (OCP) policy areas. The Vision and Goals will be significant components framing the policy of the new OCP.

New Westminster is a caring, healthy and livable city, where community members feel connected to the built and natural environments and to each other, and where investment, growth and development contribute to a high quality of life for all. Throughout the city a variety of services and employment opportunities are connected by vibrant public spaces that are easily accessible by foot, wheels and transit. Each neighbourhood has a unique character that includes buildings and open spaces with high quality urban design, that are well integrated with New Westminster's heritage assets, help reduce environmental impact and contribute to the city's cultural identity.

Take the SURVEY!



Your feedback on the draft Vision and Goals is important to the future of OUR CITY. The feedback you provide through this survey

will help us refine the Vision and Goals. It will also help us draft specific policies to help realize the Vision and Goals. Take the survey online:

newwestcity.ca/ourcity

or call 604-527-4532 for a copy. Paper copies are available for pick up or can be mailed or emailed directly to you!

What is an OCP?

The OCP is the policy document that sets out the vision, goals and policies for the future of New Westminster. The updated OCP will provide a renewed vision for the City, and the regulatory framework to guide growth toward that vision.

The OCP will contain policies for each of the goals below. The OCP will also include a land use designation map, which will indicate the future land uses that would be supported by Council.

The policies and map, together with tools and actions for implementation, will help to shape the future growth of OUR CITY.



GOALS

The goals are broad statements describing the results that the plan would seek to achieve. Each goal is a present-tense statement that the OCP will aim to make true by 2041.



Community and Individual Well-Being

New Westminster is a caring, inclusive, safe, supportive and welcoming place where all community members have opportunities to contribute, while feeling connected and accepted.



Economy and Employment

New Westminster has a diverse economy that prioritizes growth in knowledge, industry and health sectors, and around transit stations and in the downtown, creating a desirable place to work, shop and invest.



Environment and Natural Areas

New Westminster protects and enhances urban natural and habitat areas, demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship and land management practices.



Health

New Westminster is a healthy community where all residents are active, safe and supported.



Heritage

New Westminster has a strong sense of historic identity and values its heritage assets.



Housing

New Westminster's neighbourhoods are great places to live and have diverse housing choices that meet the present and future needs of the community.



Parks and Recreation

New Westminster provides excellent recreation programs for all within a high quality, comprehensive network of parks, open spaces and facilities.



Public Realm and Urban Design

New Westminster is a liveable city, with an attractive, dynamic urban character demonstrating innovation and leadership in the design of the built environment.



Transportation and Accessibility

New Westminster's multi-modal transportation system supports a compact, sustainable, resilient community, which is an important economic hub within the region.



Utilities

New Westminster has reliable, resilient and innovative servicing that efficiently and effectively meets the community's needs.



Culture

New Westminster supports opportunities for community members and visitors to connect with the distinct spiritual, emotional, intellectual and material features of the city through the arts, history, celebrations and each other.



Energy and Emissions

New Westminster is an energy efficient, low-carbon, and resilient community.



Food

Access to fresh and local food in New Westminster creates opportunities for residents to connect with food and with each other in a meaningful way.



Hazards

New Westminster protects against hazards and manages associated risks.

What is the OCP update **PROCESS?**

2014	WINTER 2015	FALL 2015	WINTER 2016
<p>Step One & Two Background Research</p> <p>We conducted background research, reviewed existing policy, identified issues and opportunities, and did statistical analysis.</p> <p>Public Launch</p> <p>The public consultation process kicked off with a Traveling Community Workshop in June 2014. A Photo Contest and Pop-Up Planning events were held over the summer 2014.</p>	<p>Step Three Vision and Goals</p> <p>This step was launched with the OUR CITY Neighbourhood Visioning Process held in February 2015. The community members who attended the workshop and open house explored how the city might grow into the future. The ideas developed were used to create the vision and goals and will inform future steps of the OCP review process.</p>	<p>Step Four Policies & Land Use Scenarios</p> <p>During this step, we will refine the draft vision and goals, and will prepare draft policies for each of the policy areas. Land use scenarios will also be created. The land use scenarios and policies will be presented to Council, Council's committees, the public, and other agencies for review. Feedback will be used to finalize the policies and to create a proposed future land use map.</p>	<p>Step Five OCP Draft Plan</p> <p>We will incorporate the vision, goals, policies, and land use map into a draft Official Community Plan. The document will be laid out to be easily understandable and useable by Council, staff, the public and other users. A draft OCP will be presented to Council, to the public, and circulated for review. It is expected that the final OCP will be presented to Council for adoption in the summer of 2016.</p>

OCP ADOPTION

Regular Reporting Back to the Public and Council

What are the **NEXT STEPS?**

We have been researching different infill housing options. This has included asking questions such as: What housing forms are allowed in other municipalities? How are they working? The next steps in this analysis will include exploring the opportunities and concerns raised by participants of the Neighbourhood Visioning Process and the feasibility of building these housing forms in New Westminster.

A series of public events will be held in the fall that explore the results of this research with the community and gather more detailed information regarding what type of housing forms the community is in favour of, and in which locations.

This feedback, as well as the feedback received during the Visioning Process, will be used to create land use scenarios. The scenarios will show options for where all the different land uses, in addition to housing, could be located.

Additional public events will be held related to the scenarios. The feedback will be used to create a draft land use map. We will also use the feedback gathered over the summer to refine the vision and goals, and to create draft policies.

Stay **UP-TO-DATE**

Want to stay informed about the OUR CITY 2041 process? Make sure to sign up for the distribution list by sending an email to ourcity@newwestcity.ca. You can also follow us on Twitter and 'like' the City Facebook account. These are great ways to stay connected to hear about upcoming events this summer and fall!



Contact Us:

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