

COUNCIL'S EIGHT PRIORITIES: For A Better Community



Mayor Michael Smith

“In 2016, we created new park space, moved to resolve neighbourhood character issues, strengthened our financial future, took steps to protect our natural environment, made our community safer and delivered quality services to residents. Working with Council, staff and with you, we will continue that work through 2017.”

Contact the mayor at 604-925-7001
or msmith@westvancouver.ca.

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Our number one planning tool

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Official Community Plan refresh

What's an Official Community Plan (OCP)?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a Council-approved document for managing land use.

Why does it matter?

It matters to you because the OCP is the District's number one planning tool for the next five to ten years, and because it touches citizens' lives in some way every day: how housing needs can be met, where shops, services and community facilities are located, how we move around, how we can protect the environment and how we respond to climate change.

Help us refresh it.

We're refreshing our OCP in 2017 and 2018. There will be lots of ways to get involved through in-person meetings and online surveys.

You can start by completing a very short survey about the plan's guiding principles and objectives at westvancouver.ca/OCP.



Spirit Trail

A beautiful waterfront, a healthy business core

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Ambleside: Waterfront & Town Centre

The Ambleside waterfront, already rich in green space, will have even more. The old Lawson Creek Studios building has been removed and nearby Lawson Creek is being 'daylighted' to improve fish habitat. Recent removal of District-owned waterfront houses on Argyle Avenue between Millennium Park and the Ferry Building Gallery means more waterfront green space for everyone to enjoy when the new areas are landscaped this spring.

A key new section of the Spirit Trail is complete. Argyle Avenue is closed to vehicle traffic between 13th and 14th Street and has been converted into two separated lanes, one for cyclists and one for walkers and runners.

westvancouver.ca/amblesidewaterfront

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The District of West Vancouver is moving forward on these priority areas as 2017 unfolds.



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2017 budget: smart planning for the future
COUNCIL PRIORITY:
Fiscal Sustainability & Municipal Services

West Vancouver, like almost every municipality in Canada, has aging infrastructure requiring a long-term plan and financial resources to repair, maintain and replace it. This includes everything from community centres and the Seawalk to park benches and sewer lines.

Last year, the District took a critical first step to addressing this issue when Council passed an asset management levy and created an asset reserve. In this year's budget, the District is proposing to further build the asset reserve while continuing to provide you with municipal services of the highest quality.

- Find out more at one of these public meetings:**
- Monday January 30, 2017 | 6 - 8 p.m.**
West Vancouver Memorial Library, Welsh Hall West
 - Wednesday February 1, 2017 | 2 - 4 p.m.**
Seniors' Activity Centre, Learning Studio
 - Thursday, February 2, 2017 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
Gleneagles Community Centre, Seaview Room
- westvancouver.ca/budget



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Tree management: best practices, community interests
COUNCIL PRIORITY:
Built Form, Housing & Neighbourhood Character

Balancing tree management best practices with community interests is one of West Vancouver's most difficult issues.

The District will appoint nine citizen members to a Tree Bylaw Working Group this spring. The working group will look at options, engage the community and make recommendations for a permanent bylaw to regulate how trees on private property are managed.

All community members will be able to contribute to this working group's findings and final report via public consultation meetings and other ways too.

westvancouver.ca/trees

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Making West Vancouver safe today and safer tomorrow
COUNCIL PRIORITY:
Police Services & Municipal Hall Project



The Police Services & Municipal Hall project is on budget and on time for opening in fall 2017. Construction is moving into its late phases. We thank nearby residents who have been affected by construction for their patience and cooperation.

Locating the new Police Services building on the Municipal Hall site and connecting it to the Municipal Hall means lower operating costs for both, with many costs to be shared. It also means convenience and service improvements for residents.

The new building is critical for community safety. It's seismically sound and will ensure that West Vancouver Police Department officers are available to respond in the wake of a major disaster.



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Shaping West Vancouver's creative future
COUNCIL PRIORITY:
Priority: Arts, Culture & Heritage

Beginning now, we are creating a strategy to increase the reach and focus the contribution that arts and culture make to life in West Vancouver. Community consultations this spring and summer will include stakeholder meetings, open houses and cultural cafés to make sure everyone has a chance to bring something to the strategy. Staff and consultants will work with a steering committee of citizens and stakeholders to guide the process.

Find out more and sign up for updates at westvancouver.ca/artsandculturestrategy.

Council welcomes your comments
on these priorities and any District matter. Attend a community consultation meeting or a regular Council meeting, make your views known through the District website at westvancouver.ca, write a letter or email Council at mayorandcouncil@westvancouver.ca.



What does arts mean to you?

westvancouver

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Reducing our footprint, living sustainably

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Natural Environment & Climate Action

Last fall, Council adopted the final report of the Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) working group's final report. This was an important step toward reaching present and future sustainability goals. The CEEP report's key strategic directions, listed below, will drive staff planning and work going forward:

- direct new development to our walkable village centres
- begin the Cypress Village planning process and protect Upper Lands forests
- pursue new housing options for empty-nesters and young people (townhouses, low-rise)
- low-carbon, low cost building retrofits and renovations
- higher efficiency building construction
- enhanced transit and stronger pedestrian and cycling infrastructure
- car-sharing and electric vehicles programs
- increase apartment and commercial composting and recycling

The Community Energy & Emissions (CEE) Plan

focusses on four areas:

Places & Spaces

(Neighbourhood & Community Planning)

Bricks & Mortar

(Housing & Land Use)

Roll & Stroll

(Transportation & Land Use)

Trash & Treasure

(Solid Waste & Materials)



The CEE Plan citizens' working group worked with staff, consultants and other citizens to envision a sustainable future.

Working to ease traffic, transportation issues

COUNCIL PRIORITY: Traffic & Transportation

The District of West Vancouver council has added traffic and transportation to its list of priorities. Traffic and transportation problems are top of mind for many residents and Council's new focus reflects that.

The District's Strategic Transportation Plan and the Mayors' Council's 10-Year Vision for Metro Vancouver Transportation, approved late last year, will inform municipal staff's next steps. Council and staff will be looking to address current traffic and transportation issues, but traffic problems will also be considered from a longer-term planning perspective.



Stay updated on these priorities and important District news. Visit westvancouver.ca/enews to sign up. It's easy to stay informed, and you can unsubscribe at any time.