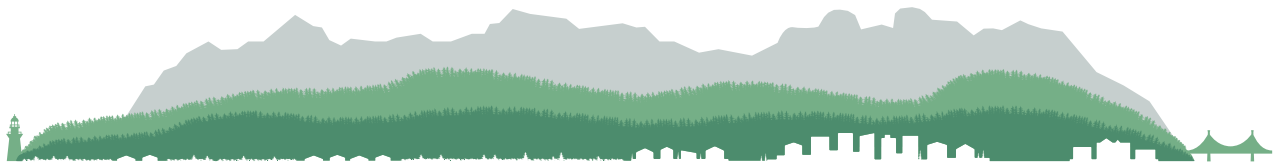


Parks & Environment Directions Paper

Official Community Plan Review - Phase 3



Help us refine our emerging directions!

This paper provides a summary of what we have heard so far and a step towards developing the District's *Official Community Plan* (OCP).

In **Phase 1 - Objectives** of the OCP Review process, you told us what you wanted the OCP to achieve. In **Phase 2 - Ideas** you shared with us your big ideas on how to make it happen.

This paper takes the hundreds of ideas you shared regarding **parks & environment**, and

condenses them into emerging directions for your consideration. This paper serves as a discussion tool for you to help us refine these emerging directions during **Phase 3 - Directions**.

Other directions papers on housing & neighbourhoods, transportation, local economy, and social well-being are also available online and as a booklet. Visit westvancouver.ca/ocp to find out more and to learn how you can get involved.



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What we have done so far

Phase 1 OBJECTIVES

Spring 2017

Identify community and stakeholder objectives

Phase 2 IDEAS

Ideas Forums & Ideas Workbook

Summer 2017

Respond to the objectives identified in Phase 1

During **Phase 1 - Objectives**, which concluded May 2017, we had over 700 instances of engagement and over 15 events and meetings:

- **two World Cafés**
- **community survey**
- **youth brainstorm**
- **Community Day**
- **12 stakeholder meetings**
- **working group chair focus group**
- **dedicated web portal, e-newsletter & social media**

On the topic of parks & environment, you told us that you wanted *our environment preserved to enjoy now and in the future* and that we need to *protect our natural systems and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions*.

In **Phase 2 - Ideas** which concluded September 2017, we reached out to you and heard your ideas on how to meet your objectives through over 18 community-wide events and activities:

- **three Ideas Forums**
- **seven outreaches at the farmer's market & Harmony Arts Festival**
- **seven "Pop-up" Planning Offices**
- **Youth IdeasStorm**
- **Ideas Workbook**
- **working group chair focus group**
- **continued updates through the web, e-newsletter & social media**

Thanks to the community's input, we gathered around 5,000 ideas from almost 1,000 instances of engagement.

Where we are going

Phase 3

DIRECTIONS

Fall 2017

Develop policy directions based on your ideas

Phase 4

DRAFT PLAN

Winter 2017/18

Tie it together into a draft plan

Moving forward to **Phase 3 - Directions**, we want you to now **help us refine** the directions that have emerged out of the ideas of Phase 2.

We have put together this *Parks and Environment Directions Paper* to present the emerging directions, and there are a number of engagement opportunities for you to provide input:

- **six directions workshops:**
 - » **Social Well-being on October 23**
 - » **Local Economy on November 1**
 - » **Housing and Neighbourhoods on November 9 & 15**
 - » **Parks & Environment on November 22**
 - » **Transportation on November 30**
- **housing “pop-ups”**
- **a directions survey, online and at Municipal Hall between October 23 and December 10, 2017**

You can find specific information on these engagement opportunities and all background information at westvancouver.ca/ocp.

Thank you for your input in advance!

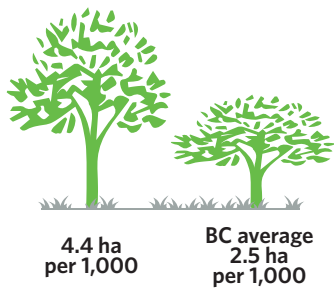
During **Phase 4 - Draft Plan**, we will take your suggestions to refine the emerging directions and develop specific draft policies. This will lead to a draft *Official Community Plan* for public and Council consideration.

Further details about Phase 4 engagement will be provided when we get there.

Please keep participating in our OCP Review process and stay in the loop through our web, e-newsletter, and social media!

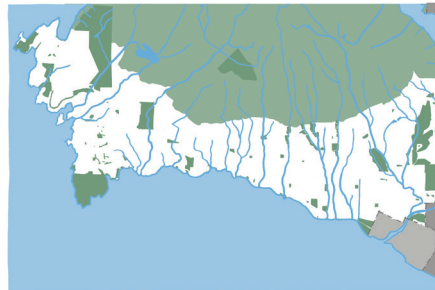
What we know about parks & environment

Our community has a responsibility and an opportunity to plan for its future to ensure that it continues to thrive and that our residents continue to enjoy a high quality of life. Our community is changing, and we need to plan so that current and future generations can continue to enjoy the environment around us. To help us better discuss the emerging directions for environment, here are some things we know:



Natural Assets

We have one of the highest parkland per capita ratios in the region, and enjoy a variety of valuable environmental assets, including old growth forests, shoreline, creeks, streams and riparian areas

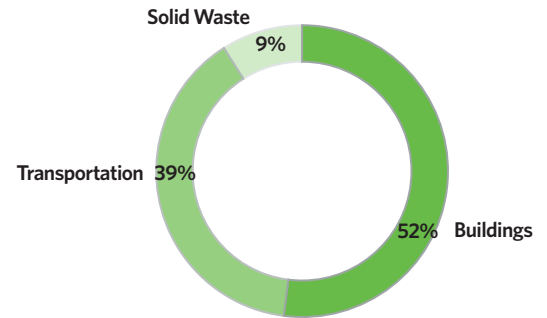


Proximity

Our community enjoys and values close access to nature

Stewardship

Stewardship groups actively work to protect and restore our environmental assets



GHG Emissions

We have higher per capita greenhouse gas emissions than the region overall (6 vs. 5 tonnes)

Our forests and the ocean act as carbon storage and help regulate local climates

It's all connected

The environment can be protected through environmentally-sensitive and energy-efficient building design and practices. Opportunities to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment can be created through more sustainable land-use practices.

Access to nature, outdoor recreation and parks systems can enhance health, livability and social interactions. Resiliency to climate change can help mitigate impacts to more vulnerable populations in our community.



Climate change can create costly impacts to the economy. Low-carbon economic activities and considerations for our natural assets can foster community resiliency, and sustainable business innovations, investments and collaborations.

GHG emissions and other environmental impacts (e.g. air quality and noise) can be reduced by encouraging low-carbon alternatives to driving, reducing cars on the road, and supporting shorter commutes.

Emerging directions on parks & environment

The following are 10 directions that emerged from Phase 2 and we invite you to help us refine them.



Emerging directions on urban environment

1. Review construction regulations and development controls to minimize the impact of new houses and enhance protection of creeks, streams, riparian and foreshore habitats
2. Use new development to restore the environment and enhance ecosystem services (e.g. *daylighting, on-site remediation, off-site enhancements*)

Emerging directions on active parks & trails

5. Seek to acquire new active parks and trails (e.g. *access to nature*) that meet community needs through new development
6. Acquire strategic lands to enable active management of and access to the waterfront
7. Apply best practices in managing parks (e.g. *tree stewardship, public accessibility, diversity of experience, active living*)

Emerging directions on natural environment & habitats

3. Identify and protect environmentally sensitive areas and actively manage natural assets in recognition of the ecosystem services they provide
4. Maximize Upper Lands forest protection by creating compact neighbourhoods and restricting development above 1,200 foot

Emerging directions on environmental resiliency

8. Advance climate strategies on land use, buildings, transportation and waste (e.g. *energy efficiency, water conservation, waste diversion*)
9. Enhance the foreshore to prevent erosion, preserve habitat and increase resiliency to climate change impacts (e.g. *sea level rise, storm surges, weather events*)
10. Review policies and regulations to manage potential environmental hazards (e.g. *coastal hazards, steep slopes, forest fires*)

The following image illustrates the different elements that make up a community, including housing, transportation, shops, services, amenities and natural areas. It does not depict West Vancouver and is intended for illustrative purposes only.

Innovative solutions like solar panels can reduce the environmental impact of buildings

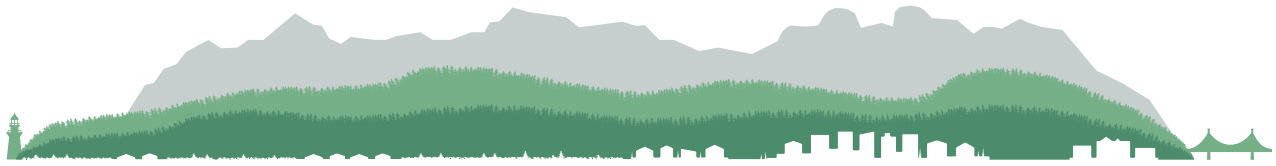
Environmental impacts of building construction and development need to be managed through regulations



Sea level rise and other climate change impacts are issues that coastal communities are currently facing

Natural areas not only provide environmental benefits but also outdoor recreation and trails

Our riparian areas are important for maintaining the health and productivity of our streams and creeks



Thank you!

Thanks to the community's contribution, we are progressing forward in the District's OCP review process. In the Fall of 2017, we are reaching out again to our community to help us refine the emerging directions that came out of **Phases 1 and 2**.



Don't forget it's all Connected!

In addition to this *Parks & Environment Directions Paper*, we have also developed other directions papers on housing & neighbourhoods, transportation, local economy, and social well-being. These are available at Municipal Hall and online at westvancouver.ca/ocp.

Stay involved!

You can tell us what you think by attending a number of workshops or completing a **Directions Survey**. Visit westvancouver.ca/ocp to access the survey, learn more about the engagement schedule and sign up for updates.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



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