11. Infrastructure and Green Development

Goals:

1. **Ensure sufficient infrastructure capacity to meet the future needs of residents and businesses.**
2. **Promote and encourage sustainable building design and green infrastructure**
3. **Support opportunities to grow and get food close to home.**
4. **Protect coastal ecosystems**
5. **Identify climate change adaptation strategies**

As a residential neighbourhood with close proximity to downtown, parks, shopping and services, Fairfield enjoys the opportunity to increase sustainability through enhanced transit and active transportation. Fairfield also contains important natural areas and coastal bluff ecosystems as well as an urban forest comprised of parks, public street trees and trees on private lands. The waterfront is part of the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Climate change is expected to impact some low-lying coastal areas, as well as lead to more sever rainfall events and drier summers.

With new buildings, upgraded infrastructure, parks improvements, management of the urban forest and of green infrastructure on public lands, and the retrofit of existing buildings, Fairfield policy can play an important role in ensuring the future community is healthy, vibrant and minimizes its impact on the environment while ensuring its resilience against future stresses. These sustainable development directions are woven throughout this document, reflecting an integrated approach. Other actions to achieve more sustainable development and plan for climate change will be achieved at the City wide level outside the neighbourhood plan.

Other Relevant Policies & Bylaws

- Water System Master Plan
- Stormwater Master Plan
- Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan (2018)
- Victoria Sustainability Framework
- City Climate Leadership Plan and 100% Renewable Energy by 2050 Commitment
- Market Rental Revitalization Study (2018)
- Urban Forest Master Plan (2013)
- City-wide education and incentive programs
- Small-Scale Commercial Urban Food Production Regulations
- Community Gardens Policy
- Boulevard Gardening Guidelines

Infrastructure

11.1. Utility Networks

Intent:

Ensure sufficient infrastructure capacity to meet the future needs of residents and businesses.

11.1.1. Consider the capacity of utility networks, including water distribution, sanitary sewer and storm drainage, in reviewing development applications and other land use changes.

11.1.2. Continue upgrading the underground infrastructure in the Fairfield neighbourhood as directed by City-wide master plans for water distribution, sanitary sewer and storm drainage upgrades.

11.1.3. Upgrade Fairfield's sanitary sewer and stormwater mains as they meet the end of their life cycle, in order to extend longevity and prevent root and sediment intrusion.

11.2. Stormwater Management on Public Lands

Intent:

Use infrastructure to mimic and restore ecological processes.

11.2.1. Identify opportunities to incorporate green stormwater infrastructure or "green streets" as part of utility, active transportation and other street improvements. Potential locations include active transportation routes, potential "Living Streets" on McClure Street and Collinson Street, and visible locations such as around urban villages.

11.2.2. Include rainwater management and sustainable design features as part of improvements to parks, City facilities and other City property.

11.2.3. Explore requirements for on-site treatment of stormwater in new development through City-wide implementation of stormwater management program.

Sustainable Buildings and Green Development

Intent:

Promote and encourage sustainable building design, green infrastructure and low-carbon transportation options for new and existing development in order to mitigate climate change and related environmental impacts.

11.3. Green Buildings

11.3.1. Require new buildings to meet energy efficiency standards through the city-wide adoption of the British Columbia Energy Step Code.

11.3.2. Through the Market Rental Revitalization Study, develop policies to encourage energy efficiency and support revitalization in existing rental apartment buildings while maintaining affordability.

11.3.3. Through implementation of the City-wide Climate Leadership Plan, develop a sustainability checklist for new development which will address all sustainability aspects of new building projects, including energy efficiency, stormwater management, sustainable building materials etc.

11.4. Existing Buildings

11.4.1. Recognizing that Fairfield has the highest proportion of houses heated by oil in Victoria, encourage private residences to transition away from heating oil through support programs such as BC Hydro's Home Renovation Rebates and the provincial Oil to Heat Pump program.

11.4.2. Through the land use policies in this plan, encourage housing types which support the adaptive re-use of existing buildings, therefore minimizing waste directed to landfills and energy embodied in new construction.

11.5. Stormwater Management on Private Property

11.5.1. Incorporate on-site rainwater management features (e.g. permeable pavement, rain gardens) into new developments through Development Permit guidelines for new multi-unit development in Fairfield Neighbourhood.

11.5.2. Continue to incentivize new and existing development to implement the City's Rainwater Management Standards through the City's Rainwater Rewards program.

11.5.3. Explore a city-wide requirement for new development to manage rainwater on-site.

Sustainable Buildings and Green Development, cont'd.

11.6. Adapting to Climate Change

Intent:

Identify and address neighbourhood climate change impacts.

11.6.1. Use green infrastructure (e.g. the urban forest, natural areas and rain gardens) to mitigate climate change impacts (e.g. through shade, species diversity, flood control) on private and public lands.

11.6.2. Identify City infrastructure and facilities susceptible to impacts from sea level rise project assessment and planning, and develop strategies to adapt.

11.6.3. Identify private development susceptible to impacts from sea level rise and develop adaptation strategies through the City-wide Climate Leadership Plan

11.6.4. Develop additional policies, design strategies and initiatives to help Fairfield adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts through City-wide Climate Leadership Plan and implementation of the City's Climate Action Program.

11.7. Neighbourhood Food System

Intent:

Support opportunities to grow and get more food close to home.

11.7.1. Support community-led efforts to establish additional community gardens in Fairfield, including allotment gardens, native plantings, pollinator gardens or community orchards.

11.7.2. Consider opportunities for food production in parks through individual park improvement plans and as opportunities arise. Potential locations include Robert J. Porter Park, Chapman Park and Bushby Park (see Chapter 4, Parks, Open Space and Urban Forest).

11.7.3. Consider incorporating other food-related features such as picnic tables and community ovens in parks to encourage social gathering.

11.7.4. Encourage the integration of food production into new development (e.g. rooftop gardens, edible landscapes or allotment gardens for residents)

11.7.5. Continue to support small-scale commercial urban food production through city-wide regulations.

Moss Street Market

Fruit orchard in Robert J Porter Park