

9. TOWARD A WELL SERVICED COMMUNITY

KEY DIRECTIONS

A physical infrastructure, with an effective level of utilities and services, is important in achieving a quality of life for the community.

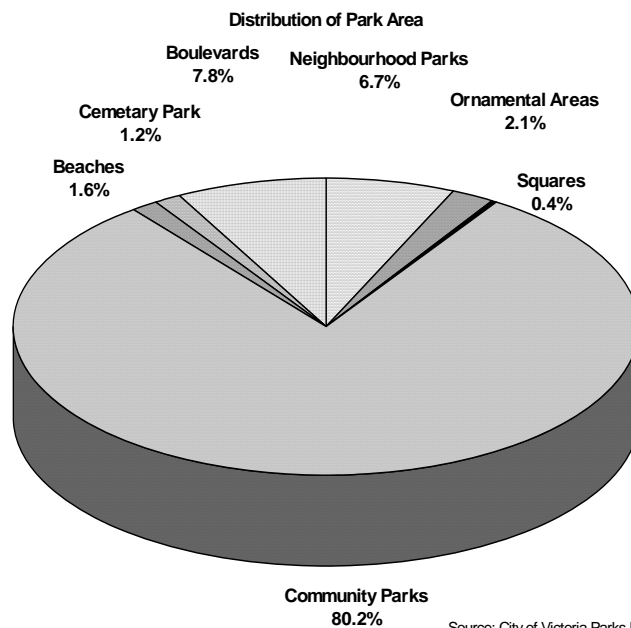
Keep a green Victoria by maintaining and developing innovative greenspace, such as developing green residential walkways and cycleways into the City.

A. GENERAL

The City has the responsibility for the provision of a number of basic community services. These include the majority of parks and recreation services, police and fire protection and sewer and water systems. Schools and health services are the responsibility of other government bodies. Included in this chapter, and cross referenced with chapters *Toward a Liveable Community* and *Toward a Viable Community*, is the issue of facilities for the arts. While much community arts activity is

decentralized in recreation and educational centres within neighbourhoods, there is a role for a community arts centre which would provide rehearsal and exhibition space, artists' studios, workshop and educational areas in or near the Downtown core. To be fiscally responsible, professional and community groups should work in cooperation with the City to investigate funding through a public/private partnership arrangement.

Over the years, there has been a steady increase in the level of service expected by the community. However, it has become increasingly difficult to meet such expectations from conventional local government resources. In general, basic needs are satisfactorily met; the park system is well established and there is the potential to develop a *Greenways Program*; plans for hospital expansion and relocation are substantially complete; major funding of capital works is committed. Future needs are anticipated to be modest in most respects. New commitments and increased levels of service would be dependent upon changes in Provincial and Federal Government policies and financial assistance programs, capital budget referenda and possible new revenue programs, for example, Development Cost Charges and a Housing Reserve Fund.



The locations of existing major water mains, storm sewers and sanitary services are shown on Map 9.

TOPIC (1) – PARKS

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To provide parks and open spaces that meet the changing recreational needs of Victoria’s citizens.
- (b) To attain the greatest public benefit from public and private open greenspace.

POLICIES

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (i) Pursue major park development programs, including Central, Topaz, MacDonald, Burnside, Jubilee, Harris Green, Victoria West, Gonzales Bay and Oswald Parks.
- (ii) Maintain and expand waterfront access and pedestrian walkway systems.
- (iii) Re-examine park and open space needs to acknowledge changes in neighbourhood population characteristics and size.
- (iv) Work towards achieving a park supply standard of:
 - (a) 0.61 hectares of neighbourhood park land per 1,000 population.
 - (b) an increase in the number of available athletics fields in the City.
 - (c) 0.93 hectares of community parkland per 1,000 population; these often serve several neighbourhoods.
- (v) Locate future parks considering the following criteria:
 - (a) parks should, where possible, be located to serve residents within walking distance - smaller neighbourhood parks have a service radius of about 0.4 kilometres and primary neighbourhood parks containing extensive services have a service radius of about 0.8 km.

- (b) future park locations should take into consideration open greenspace of other institutions such as schools.
- (c) the neighbourhood standard applied in consideration of (a) and (b) above may be in adjoining neighbourhoods. Parks serve residents by accessibility and proximity rather than by neighbourhood boundaries.
- (d) develop neighbourhood park sites adjacent to school sites with play lots close by for very young children, where possible.

THE CITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR SHOULD:

- (vi) In residential developments, encourage developers to make provisions for open space.

THE CITY AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHOULD:

- (vii) Improve liaison with the School Board for joint use of grounds.

THE CITY AND THE PROVINCE SHOULD:

- (viii) Support provincial agencies in the maintenance and enhancement of their parks and open greenspace in the City.

THE CITY AND PROVINCIAL CAPITAL COMMISSION SHOULD:

- (ix) Investigate a Greenways Program strategy.

TOPIC (2) – UTILITIES

OBJECTIVE

- (a) To develop and maintain a good level of utilities services for the developed community, recognizing those areas subject to change.

POLICIES

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (i) Complete the approved upgrading, enlargement and extension of the City’s services included in the Capital Budget.
- (ii) Where land use change increases densities, consider appropriate bylaws to cover the costs of all secondary services to new developments.

- (iii) Make land use decisions compatible with servicing capacities and coordinate upgrading programs with land use policies.
- (iv) Encourage and assist the CRD with trunk sewer facilities planning.
- (v) Encourage and assist the CRD with solid waste disposal program.
- (vi) Monitor policies to ensure an adequate and prime source of potable drinking water.

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD:

- (vii) Provide services for redevelopment of the Songhees area.

THE CITY AND SAANICH SHOULD:

- (viii) Cooperate to adequately service the north and northwest area of the City and adjoining Saanich lands.

TOPIC (3) – POLICE AND FIRE

OBJECTIVE

- (a) To sustain cost-effective police and fire protection for people and property.

POLICIES

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (i) Support fire and crime prevention by available techniques, including environmental design.
- (ii) Provide for a new fire hall in James Bay to serve the southern part of the core, Fairfield and James Bay.
- (iii) Investigate firefighting sites for the emergency harbour service and to serve Victoria West, including training sites.
- (iv) Provide the means for effective fire service delivery to all areas of the City for existing and future facilities, as part of transportation planning.
- (v) Investigate the feasibility of joint police/fire facilities in neighbourhoods, particularly in James Bay and Victoria West.

TOPIC (4) – SCHOOLS

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To support the School Board in providing high-quality, cost effective education in a manner compatible with other community objectives.
- (b) To encourage multi-purpose use of school sites.

POLICIES

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (i) Through land use controls and neighbourhood plans, recognize and sustain existing schools by encouraging family housing in neighbourhoods.

THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CITY SHOULD:

- (ii) Identify alternative uses for existing school buildings and sites which have become surplus to educational requirements.
- (iii) Sustain existing school sites and buildings to the benefit of neighbourhoods and the community at large.
- (iv) Continue to investigate ways to maximize community use of existing school facilities.

TOPIC (5) – HEALTH SERVICES

OBJECTIVE

- (a) To support the Hospital District in providing a high quality of cost-effective community health care in a manner compatible with other community objectives.

POLICIES

THE CITY AND THE REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SHOULD:

- (i) Work towards implementation of contemporary standards of health facilities, e.g., upgrading of the Royal Jubilee Hospital in an appropriate manner.

- (ii) Consider retention of the Victoria General Hospital - Fairfield, as a long-term care or geriatric facility with ancillary services, in a manner compatible with its surroundings.

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (iii) Through land use policies, identify sites for new community care facilities in appropriate residential locations.
- (iv) Sustain and enhance established residential care facilities and intermediate care facilities.
- (v) Recognize the need for drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres and special needs centres, such as group homes for disabled people requiring support services and crisis shelters.
- (vi) Permit residential care uses in conversion of suitable houses.

TOPIC (6) – RECREATION AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To provide a level of community recreation and cultural facilities to meet the needs and resources of all City residents.
- (b) To increase opportunities for the placement of works of art in public parks, buildings and spaces.
- (c) To encourage community sports programs and activities for all age groups.

POLICIES

THE CITY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE SCHOOL BOARD, SHOULD:

- (i) Encourage cooperation in planning for recreational and cultural facilities to avoid gaps and duplication of services.

THE CITY SHOULD:

- (ii) Work toward a new leisure complex in the Central Park/Royal Athletic Park and Memorial Arena area, recognizing changing population characteristics.
- (iii) Encourage private developers to incorporate recreational facilities within major residential projects.

- (iv) Establish a mechanism to increase the number of outdoor venues for arts performances.

THE CITY AND ADJACENT MUNICIPALITIES SHOULD:

- (v) Continue cooperation to provide comprehensive library services to the urban community.

THE CITY, IN COOPERATION WITH THE ARTS INTERMUNICIPAL COMMITTEE AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, SHOULD:

- (vi) Revisit the priorities of the *Greater Victoria Arts Facility Study* with a view to the provision of adequate arts facilities.
- (vii) Develop a formula for establishing a capital fund for the provision of major regional professional facilities in the Downtown core.
- (viii) Maintain the McPherson and Royal Theatres as viable performance venues for both the community and professional arts activity.