



Communities Help Shape the Future of their Neighbourhood

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Residents and business owners in Burnside Gorge, Fairfield, Gonzales and Victoria West are helping to plan their neighbourhoods. A 25-year neighbourhood plan is being created for each of these communities that will reflect the neighbours hopes and aspirations for their area.

With more than 20,000 people anticipated to move into the City over the coming decades, these plans are needed to identify where new people will live, how people will move around and where to locate new businesses. Over the next three years, all the neighbourhoods in Victoria will have new neighbourhood plans created under a new collaborative planning model. Under this model, City staff will work with homeowners, renters, business owners, developers, and people both young and old to help plan how the community will grow and change. There are many ways that neighbours participate in planning their neighbourhood. More traditional methods such as online surveys, sounding boards in the community, community meetings, open houses, workshops, and pop-up events are all being used to reach out to the community. But neighbours have also been invited to lead or collaborate with the City to host a planning event. The City will cover costs for these events including venue rental, facilitators and technical expertise.

“The goal of this endeavour is to engage with the largest and broadest swath of residents that we possibly can,” says Jonathan Tinney, the City’s Director of Planning. “One way we’re doing that is by supporting residents and community groups in hosting engagement activities focusing on issues that are important to them.”

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Great neighbourhoods are the result of committed citizens, an engaged community, financial investment and a strong neighbourhood plan. These plans help build sustainable, vibrant communities by answering the questions:

- *Where will new housing and businesses go?*
- *What should they look like?*
- *How will people move around?*
- *What other services and amenities does the neighbourhood need?*

Each of the plans being created is at a different stage in development:

Burnside Gorge

The draft Burnside Gorge Neighbourhood Plan is being presented back to the community at two open houses next week:

- Wednesday, October 26, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gabriel Ross Showroom, 2500 Rock Bay Ave
- Saturday, October 29, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Days Inn Victoria Uptown, 229 Gorge Road East

An [online survey](#) is open until October 30, 2016 to gather feedback on the draft plan.

Read about the plan or find out more about the process [here](#).

Fairfield and Gonzales

These neighbourhood plans are in the co-create stage where the community is asked to create strategies for the issues and goals that were previously identified. A series of forums are underway to tackle the neighbourhoods' priorities. These include a renters' forum, and workshops for Housing Growth and Urban Villages in each neighbourhood which have already taken place. The upcoming forums are:

- Transportation - Fairfield and Gonzales Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Fairfield Gonzales Community Place, Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Road
- Parks, Green Spaces, Recreation, Trees - Fairfield and Gonzales Saturday, October 22, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fairfield Gonzales Community Place, Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Road
- Placemaking, Public Spaces, Arts, Culture - Fairfield and Gonzales Saturday, October 22, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfield Gonzales Community Place, Garry Oak Room, 1335 Thurlow Road
- Cook Street Village Monday, October 24, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Cook St Village Activity Centre, 380 Cook St
- Heritage - Fairfield and Gonzales Tuesday, October 25, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Glenlyon Norfolk School, Dining Hall, 801 Bank St
- Neighbourhood Sustainability and Resiliency - Fairfield and Gonzales Thursday, October 27, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Fairfield United Church, Lower Hall, 1303 Fairfield Road
- Cook Street Village Forum #2 Saturday, October 29, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Parkside Hotel & Spa, 810 Humboldt Street

Find out more information [here](#).

Victoria West

Neighbours in Victoria West are in the early stages of drafting their plan. They are currently providing feedback on what they want their neighbourhood to look like in 25 years and identifying the key issues for the community. Sounding boards are located throughout the neighbourhood to make it simple and easy for all neighbours to get involved. An [online survey](#) has also been broadly promoted in the community to gather input.

Find out more information [here](#).

Each Neighbourhood Plan will take approximately one year to develop. The following schedule is set for the remaining neighbourhoods in Victoria:

March 2017 – February 2018: Fernwood, Jubilee, North Park, Rockland, as well as Fort Street Corridor within Fairfield, and Oak Bay Village within Gonzales

March 2018 – February 2019: James Bay, Hillside Quadra, Oaklands

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For More Information:

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