

**Sounding Boards Feedback
Vic West Neighbourhood Plan
September – October 2016**

In the fall of 2016, five sounding boards were placed around the Victoria West Neighbourhood to gather feedback on the key issues and future vision for the neighbourhood.

Location: Spiral Café

Q1 What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?

- No Starbucks, no corporations, more restaurants small businesses.
- Picnic area in Banfield park
- More offleash areas. Fenced area, covered picnic are in Banfield
- More recycling bins, more garbage cans and more community gardens
- Community gardens – everywhere! Permaculture food security
- More affordable housing
- More density – low rises!! Affordable housing. Walk to shops library
- Good mix of single homes, 4 storey appointments. Land use crucial regarding lifestyle, no hi-rises
- Speed limit signs or school zone signs for Catherine street. It is very close to an elementary school and there are children playing – speed bumps
- No sewage plant
- Blue sky development (get dense but not too high)
- No more rats
- More cafes, businesses, No Starbucks or McDonalds small unique businesses. YES!
- Bring back the corn roast. We'll volunteer and Zucchini races
- Proper intersection at Pine/Craigflower for bikes entering and exiting bike path
- More gathering places
- Kids fishing poi pond (herons permitted)
- Better lighting Banfield Park
- Covered picnic gathering places in Bamfield Park (for yoga and other classes too)
- No more school
- A little denser still mixed still quite funky
- Low rise not high rise
- Affordable housing
- More sense of community
- Community gardens
- Even more community gardens
- Public art

Q2 What do you love about your neighbourhood?

- Speed bumps on the bike path by the playground in Bamfield Park
- Variety of people and acceptance of lifestyles – a great neighbourhood
- More park swings and playing pups!
- Walkability parks, water access
- Maintain, protect and plant more trees. Beautiful, healthy and soul enriching
- Get rid of the boats

- The beautiful people who live here
- Clean swimming, clean gorge get rid of liveaboard boats
- The boats are fine. People are finding creative ways to live on low incomes. Let's support that. Stop with the NIMBYISM
- Embrace of genuine community
- Yurts self built homes, barter system, Vic west dollars
- Artistically made street lights posts like what they have in downtown Kelowna. They should Victoria west on them too.
- More dancing and music. YES!
- Close to town water, trails
- More offleash time. Dedicated dog park in Bamfield
- No bullying
- Swimming pool, sauna, hot tub, waterslides

Q3 What should be improved (issues and opportunities)?

- Better off leash areas
- No harbor planes and air pollution
- Remove derelict boats in the Gorge!!! Ditto Yes, yes, yes
- Remove gorge boats
- More community neighbourhood gatherings and festivals
- Wilson crosswalk at Hereward and traffic calming there
- Accessibility for sidewalks
- Bay Street bridge is horrible for cycling/walking
- Better more water access at Bamfield Park
- A bigger park
- Traffic light outside Barber shop on corner (cars do not stop easily at that crosswalk)
- Separated bike lanes
- Dog free zones
- Roundabouts (traffic calming) on Craigflower
- Slow people down - traffic speed. Catherine St too and Pine and Craigflower
- Traffic calming on Craigflower
- Local library branch
- Picnic area in Bamfield Park
- Higher density housing and family housing
- Need more off leash
- Keep the boats

Location: Selkirk Trestle

Q1 What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?

- Bigger rowing boat house
- More eelgrass beds
- More micro home communities
- Drone and raptor play area
- Ocean dockside swimming play areas
- Less cars!! More walking play space

- Lime bay developed with outdoor space
- Houses with broken down cars
- No boats return it to Bird sanctuary
- Ocean access
- Swimming dock – clean water for swimming
- Peaceful quiet friendly
- No one allowed to sleep/live in parks
- Dock at Arm St
- A place with affordable housing
- Accessible to all
- Free air pumps for bicycles and strollers etc at local community centres
- Fair rental prices and better landlords
- Amalgamate municipalities
- More low rise condos with businesses on ground floor.
- light rapid transit from western communities to Victoria and Sidney and ferry to Victoria
- I see quiet e scooters on these paths. Commuters. happening in more places
- More dog friendly areas (off leash)
- More native plant and restoration spaces, Yes Please!!
- Clean shorelines
- More public space less cars. Agreed.
- 3 days a week car free air zone
- More small businesses. More things to do (entertainment complex)
- Urban farms preserved
- More bike lane/trails
- Police regularly patrolling on bikes or foot
- Multi level multi-faceted inclusive
- Housing that is affordable for everyone
- Lots of trees and greenery
- Lots of walking biking trails but keep lighting to minimum
- Safer neighbourhood
- Make the beach sandy in bay (after boats)
- Safe place for kids dogs and families
- Highly ranked schools
- An avenue like Oak Bay Funky shops etc
- Less vehicle traffic
- Cohesive neighbourhood between Craigflower village and Songhees
- Affordable housing to encourage diverse neighbourhood
- More lighting on Goose Trail to Harbour Rd not safe for children
- More police patrols vandalism etc
- Densification and quality public space
- More wildlife and seaweed in the gorge
- Housing for homeless and mental health support
- Bring back the E&N rail
- As beautiful , same density
- I'm a cyclist, teach cyclists to consider walkers and have them use their bell to let them know you are coming. Ottawa is a good example
- Keep it accessible for the working class
- A quiet sustainable place to live and walk and work
- Does writing on these post it notes actually mean anything

- No more highrise towers and massive buildings
- Extensive public earthquake preparedness
- Keep as much greenspace and trees as possible
- Save the waterfront
- Improved public realm on Skinner – Traffic speed limit
- Lighted trails/paths at night
- Discourage crime - drug traffic, prostitution, theft (opportunity)
- car free
- more thru walking routes
- More space for wildlife
- Fewer campers no derelict boats
- E&N Rail for our city
- Make sure to keep all the nice green areas around
-

Q2 What do you love about your neighbourhood?

- Walking green space! Kids!
- Opinion boards
- Bakeries
- Access to shoreline
- Less signs (including this) More action
- I love living here
- Everything is here
- A sense of community through activity – THIS!!
- All ages sharing the water, trail and parks
- Taking the grandkids and dog to the park
- Walking not taking the car
- Walkability access to water and cormorants and salmon and seals
- Being able to walk to work
- Quick access to downtown
- Clean up jobs for local kids
- Walking with my wife and dogs after work along the trail
- Community gardens
- The seasonal changes
- Quiet (except for loud emergency vehicle sirens)
- Walking paths Yes ! Ditto
- Winter waterfowl habitat
- Everything (we're from Alberta and new to Victoria)
- Diversity, especially class diversity
- Easy access to water and nature
- Green spaces. Close to downtown. Trestle. Coffee. Bakery. Children. Recreation
- Lots of kids (I'm old)
- Diversity
- Quiet streets and neighbourhood
- The Goose
- Lots of dogs great park
- Friendly diverse neighbourhood
- Lots of amenities

- Still affordable keep it that way liveable +1
- Community garden
- Kayaking wildlife doggies (petting them)
- Bigger dock for canoes/kayaks spincasting and suntanning +1
- Drug store for waterfront crescent
- Everything is within walking distance
- Dog parks and kid playground
- Mix of all walks of life
- Walking distance to important daily needs
- Bikeways, green spaces, Gorge waterway accessibility
- Nature and community balance

Q3 What should be improved (issues and opportunities)?

- Bikes slow down. Yes I agree.
- Boat ramps for kayaks
- boat ramp for kayaks
- Soap in the public washroom regatta landing and Wilson street, please please please
- Divided lanes on paths between walkers and cyclists
- More signage on how to share the paths safely
- Separate trail through Bamfield Park for walkers
- Say something when riding "On your left"
- No more Air BNBs
- Fewer derelict boats
- Friendly landlords who are not money hungry and allow dogs of any size!!
- More rentals that allow dogs
- Ban access to foreshore (nature reserve) from both land and sea
- Lighting the trestle at night
- More cafes with more extensive hours
- Use E&N rail line for light rail transit – west shore to downtown
- Stop dumping! Clean up Alston St and Langford by car lot
- Lighting through the park and on the trestle. YES please!
- Yes lighting over the Trestle bridge safety and sense of comfort
- Enforce bylaw for boats on the waterway. Agreed we agree too!
- Bikers to stop saying "On your left" shut up]
- More fenced dog parks and bike racks
- Affordable and or pet friendly housing
- More bike lanes
- Derelict boats out clean swimming
- Less poor and homeless help them out
- 13 years ago this area was FULL of migratory birds , bring them back
- Traffic!!!
- More community gardens and urban farming
- More medical services
- Environmental footprint
- Nature and habitat
- Nature house
- Nature house at both ends of the gorge +1 x2

- Accept young new folks and ideas at the VWCA
- More bike trails and lanes
- Public toilets
- Safer and better pedestrian access at the periphery (Craigflower/Esquimalt and Wilson Hereward)
- Lights on Goose trestle
- Remove polluting boats
- More dock space
- Keep clean H2O
- Bike lane on Bay west walkway
- Walking bridge on Bay st like Portland
- Gravel trail
- Fenced dog park +1
- Get rid of derelict boats such a safety issue and pollution
- Add outdoor rec facilities outdoor gym, frisby etc
- No motorized mopeds etc on the trail (too many now)
- Courtesy training for racing cyclists they are very rude to peds and slower bikes
- Outdoor pool like Kitsilano
- Pub
- Light posts on the trestle please. It's otherwise scary to bike/walk on it at night complete darkness
- Bigger swim dock and more of them for swimming
- Less post its more dogs
- Leave the beaches as is
- Diving boards
- A roof for this board ASAP
- Lights along all trails for safer use in the evenings and fall/winter seasons
- Safer bike paths
- Widen goose where possible
- More stores/services like on Craigflower
- Curated legal graffiti walls
- Clean, tidy, pride in our homes and yards
- Bikeways,
- Re-establish wildlife habitat i.e. eel grass, trout, salmon, herring habitat
- Less cars
- Community gardens (veg fruit)
- More community allotment gardens
- More shops restaurants in community
- Legal graffiti walls
- Lighted pathway at night

Location: Vic West Park/Barnard Park

Q1 What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?

- More trees
- Dogs on leash only
- More trees more flowers more dog areas

- More trees please
- Public bathroom
- Poop bag dispensers more trash cans
- Off leash areas
- More playground space also a water park please only if possible
- wifi zones
- Keep the trees
- Water Park
- Plant more trees/fruit trees and put more picnic tables in this park
- more lights in the evenings. Have classical music
- Definitely more lights for the evening. It can be a quite intimidating and worrisome when walking at night
- Beautiful nature trees water open places spaces
- Community garden public orchard
- Bike and walker friendly spaces
- Great trees a few fruit trees would be nice
- Stiffer regulations for amount of noise and gas pollution from sea planes please
- I love the float plane activity in the harbor
- More large native trees = more birds more dark sky lighting
- Something wonderful transformed out of the ratty former gas station property on Esquimalt Road
- Bike lanes or paths Agreed
- More kids on the Safe streets family oriented housing public spaces people public spaces shopping locally
- Fewer trucks speeding cars
- lots of people on the streets on foot bikes
- A public toilet in the park x 2
- A fenced in off leash dog park would be a great addition to the community
- Better spellers
- Community garden and better kids playground
- Leave the park exactly as it is now
- Still have a tall tree no more log the park
- Better lighting
- off leash in Barnard Park
- Community garden
- a map of the waterside path and its accesses
- Light rail transit
- No cars
- Keep area economically affordable, keep waterfront public at all cost
- control foreign ownership and investment
- Walkable accessible no needles laying around

Q2 What do you love about your neighbourhood?

- A lot of things like dog friendly and the water view
- Trees and gardens
- Trees parks
- Trees harbor, parks and people who smile
- Walking path to town, parks ocean access

- Water park
- Access to the water front
- skate park
- low rise apartment buildings and no tall ones
- Basketball hoops and bocce pit
- waterpark with wifi and more dog friendly areas
- The park the way it is the people, the dogs, no junkies
- skate park basketball court
- the water active area,
- the bakeries
- mix of people
- the parks the people the dogs
- west Songhees walkway
- off leash dog areas
- tennis courts please maintain
- neighbours
- dog off leash area
- Bike and walkable
- Social community
- All the trees oceanfront
- Safe peaceful good will is shown
- Walkways paths
- The people
- Spiral café
- I like the beautiful beach
- The waterfront
- The wildlife along the water
- The pubs restaurants and gathering places
- The parks
- The people scenery and
- No marinas on this waterfront
- It's part of a migratory bird sanctuary
- Gorge waterway, green space, nice neighbours, food, gardening. community orchard

Q3 What should be improved (issues and opportunities)?

- More dog friendly areas (there are great dog areas already)
- safer streets and connections for pedestrians and cyclists
- more traffic calming for trucks and cars
- Better and more lights in the park would be nice
- Dark sky lighting on paths
- off leash dog areas
- Not enough wifi
- too many splinters replace wood chips with mats
- skate park wifi
- off leash area and better park equipment dog bags
- A crosswalk on Wilson near Walker st (Yes!) connecting Rothwell st to Hereward
- Replace wood chips in playground with those rubber mats, we hate splinters

- Designated smoking area (but not near our kids play area thank you!)
- Off leash areas, more green spaces, public bathrooms garbage cans
- A ban on leaf blowers
- Bylaw enforcement (Yes!)
- Dog poop dog bags
- Sidewalks everywhere
- We pay for dog bags they should be supplied
- better wider sidewalks
- Keep bikes off path
- local pub and coffee shops
- Less high speed through traffic
- Affordable housing
- Better garbage pickup in park
- Working water fountain
- Bird sanctuary back
- No more \$\$\$ spent on bikes
- Bigger dock
- Separate bike paths yes yes yes
- Separate bike and walking trails
- Soap in washrooms
- Bring back café at railyards
- Empty trash more often
- Café restaurant pub
- Grocery store needed
- Slow traffic on corridors through BG
- Illegally parked boats
- Homelessness should be ended
- Better separation between cyclists and walkers
- Needles and clothing debris on trails
- E&N rail restored as commuter rail crossing into Downtown Victoria
- Take away graffiti
- Get rid of invasive plants
- Cleaner Gorge water and maybe a view of not garbage from the trestle
- Leave boats alone help make them no homeless
- Needs a pub
- An anchor pub on Craigflower to build the community around
- Migratory bird sanctuary
- How about a track looping the park, so young boarders can have fun without doing tricks (suggested to me by a couple of kids)
- Very brightly lit skatepark so there will be less late night B.S and bigger trash cans
- Lights
- More pens
- A lot nicer and cleaner
- Improve bike walk through Bamfield park
- Separate bikers walkers no bikes in packs
- A park on Burnside side of Gorge waterway
- Boats removed from Gorge
- Look after Lyme bay sustain and protect
- Please put soap in public washrooms

Location: Spinnakers

Q1 What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?

- What else is there to build other than condos?
- No bikes on west Songhees trail
- Stop the gentrification
- More spaces available for small innovating inspiring businesses
- create effective efficient means for transportation i.e bus lanes walking paths, bus stops
- Maintain open park spaces and plant more beauty greenways
- Such a nice place to be , greetings from Germany
- Walkway all around inner and outer harbor
- Pet friendly seniors housing
- Speak for residents
- Affordable housing
- Thanks Canada for being the country! You are great!
- Less goose poo
- More dolphins would be nice
- No more smoking areas
- Community gardens
- Affordable housing
- Get rid of apartment blocks – Go back to the 1970's
- Affordable family friendly
- Free yachts for everyone
- Keep the ocean clean and healthy
- Listen to people 500 signature anti marina petition ignored

Q2 What do you love about your neighbourhood?

- Dog friendly
- The enjoyable walkway and services like markets being close
- Walkway beautiful views
- Clean water
- I love this city
- Community centre for different activities
- Protecting harbor from polluting places and boats
- Keeping walkway with clear views
- Planes restricted to outer harbor
- The ocean
- The view
- Visiting from Scotland. Running and walking along the boardwalk. Loved every minute
- Divided cycling and pedestrian path
- Patrol for bikes and skateboards on path
- More municipal government accountability and action

Q3 What should be improved (issues and opportunities)?

- Make no rental restriction illegal

- Too many unrentable vacancies in Songhees
- More dolphins and whales
- No marina
- Fenced in dog parks
- The public boat dock in the inner harbor is in terrible disrepair. Total lack of security and is unsafe. Please fix it up and let it reflect the awesome new bridge overhead
- More affordable housing/homes
- Vic west and Songhees population will increase dramatically density – traffic. How will we address? Bike lanes Transit car pool
- The smell from floatplanes is awful
- Slow traffic
- Overflowing garbage remedied
- Illegally parked boats
- Get rid of boats in waterway
- Fix the dock behind the police tape
- More public docks and access to the gorge waterway
- We should have a superstore
- Low income housing so ordinary people don't have to leave due to rising house prices
- More shops stores (local)
- Better and more bylaw enforcement of animals and building permits
- Offer housing for all
- More licensed 1-3 yrs daycare
- Breakdown the us/them mentality of the haves and have nots

Location: Vic West Community Association

Q1 What do you want your community to look like in 25 years?

- Bird sanctuaries
- Bumble bee highways
- Ready for emergencies
- First nations culture everywhere
- Limited traffic
- Rapid transit
- Lots of small businesses
- A robust and busy community centre that is a hub for the neighbourhood
- Gardens of all sorts – rooftop, community, boulevard
- More parking
- Water access beaches multiple boat, swimming access along the Gorge
- Maintain and increase greenspace

Q2 What do you love about your neighbourhood?

- Every house with their own organic garden growing their own food
- Sense of community, eclectiveness, diversity
- I have friends
- Very friendly and safe
- Small businesses

- Heritage
- The people
- Community garden, food forest, mixed use

Q3 What should be improved (issues and opportunities)?

- Sewage
- wetland and sewage reclamation
- Safer options to cross Wilson near Esquimalt border are required
- More houses
- No 30kms on Craigflower road. Traffic will goes faster on side roads
- Traffic goes fast on Skinner and Craigflower should be 30km/h
- More parking for VW community centre
- Speed traffic calming for Hereward Road