



Healthy Saanich Community Workshop


The fundamental determinants of the health of a community are that the community be ecologically sustainable, socially equitable and convivial, be adequately prosperous and have a healthy built environment.

The central purpose of any government should be to maximize the health, well-being and quality of life for all the people within the limits of local, regional and global ecosystems. Achieving healthy governance requires the processes and policies to be human centred, empowering and participatory.



Table of Contents

The Workshop	1
Ideas & Actions	3
Discussion Themes	6
Social Well-Being	7
Housing	9
Food Security	11
Transportation	13
Environment	16
Other	19
Moving Forward	22

Land Use 

"The following... to 5, 5 being strongly agree: public spaces (4.41); walkable communities (4.37); lifestyles (3.96); more affordable housing (3.29); and, more... Survey"

10 Watersheds 

Daylighting Bowker Creek and stormwater management/permeable sidewalks identified as missing or needing improvement in the Valley – Vision Survey


The Shelburne Valley lies in the Bowker and Douglas Creek watersheds. Bowker Creek was once a dominant feature of the Valley but today, like Douglas Creek, flows mainly underground through pipes. Development has modified drainage patterns and roadways and parking lots have increased the Valley's impervious surface area impacting the quality and quantity of storm water flow into the creeks and receiving environment.



Key Directions

- Adopt a Stormwater Management Bylaw to reduce stormwater impacts on the watersheds.
- Minimize impervious surfaces on new developments and encourage ground water recharge.
- Integrate the principles of the Bowker Creek as part of redevelopment work proposals.
- Acquire key properties for the restoration.
- Work with the District of Oak Bay to restore Bowker Creek.
- On Greenway Bowker Creek restoration and stormwater management.

BOWKER CREEK WATERSHEDS


9 Environment 

"Protection and enhancement of natural areas rated an average response of 4.47 out of 5, with 5 being Strongly Agree" – Vision Survey

The health of the natural environment and management of resources, such as energy and water, to community well-being and long-term sustainability. Green Oak ecosystems once occupied the Valley's area, but are now reduced to 3.3% as a result of farming and urban development. Remains of this ecosystem are now largely protected in the Valley's parks and designated as a Development Form Area. In the future a restorative approach to land use is needed to improve the health of the Valley's ecosystems, watersheds and urban form.

Objectives

- Protect and restore areas of ecological value.
- Restore watershed health and reliability.
- Improve urban forest health and energy efficiency.
- Promote conservation and renewable energy systems, and green infrastructure.
- Enhance the capacity to adapt to climate change.



The Workshop

Purpose

The Healthy Saanich Community Workshop was held on November 16th, 2013 at the Garth Homer Centre. Over 100 participants, representing a broad cross section of Saanich Citizens, spent the day engaged in discussion on the issues that affect our community. The group also looked at potential opportunities and solutions to make Saanich a Healthier Municipality.

Process

Discussions were held around six Themes: 1) Social Well-Being; 2) Housing; 3) Food Security; 4) Transportation; 5) Environment; and 6) Other Issues.

Feedback was captured which identified issues, opportunities and solutions for each of the six Themes. The outcomes from the workshop have been documented in this report, and will act as an idea resource pool for Council, Staff, Committees of Council, Community Groups, and citizens when looking to undertake work or develop future project or policy initiatives in Saanich.

Acknowledgements

A special thanks goes out to all of the citizens who took the time to participate in the workshop and share their vast skills and experience, including members of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee and the Saanich Community Association Network. I also want to take the time to thank Dr. Trevor Hancock who facilitated the process and brought his considerable expertise in the fields of Public Health and Community Building to the event.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Paul Gerrard'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Councillor Paul Gerrard, Chair of the Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

A large stack of papers, some of which are slightly crumpled and layered, creating a sense of depth and texture. The papers are light-colored, possibly off-white or light gray. The text 'Ideas & Actions' is overlaid in a clean, white, sans-serif font. A thin white horizontal line is visible at the bottom of the image.

Ideas & Actions

Idea Resource Pool

As previously noted, the outcomes from the workshop will act as an Idea Resource Pool for a broad range of users and potential projects or initiatives in the Community. Obviously the lists and ideas are not exhaustive, but reflect the thoughts of a broad range of citizens at a set moment in time. The value of this exercise, and the companion Report, is that as a community we:

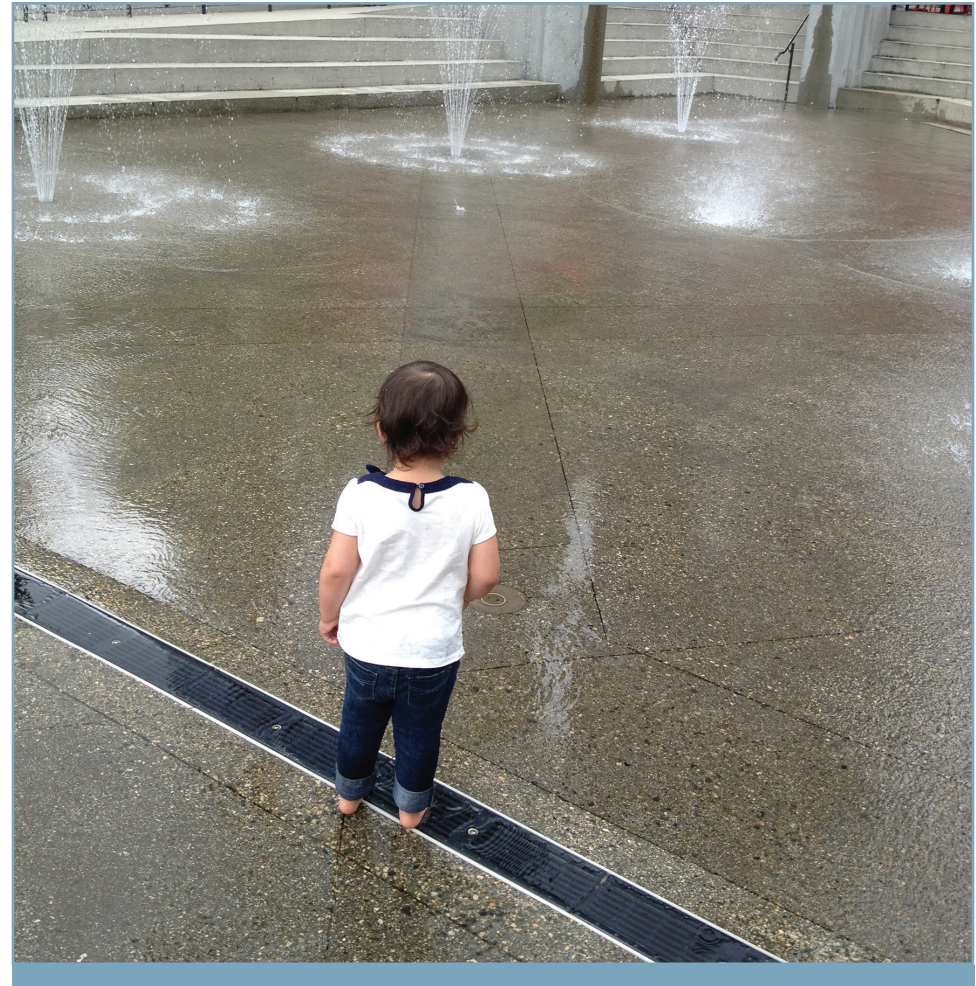
- Collectively, gain a better understanding of citizen's ideas, concerns and desires as they relate to building a Healthier Community;
- Acknowledge the past work that has been undertaken in this area and what is currently taking place, so we can avoid unwarranted "duplication" and "overlaps" in efforts or service delivery;
- Continue the process of thinking and discussing about what "gaps" exist and what needs to be done next;
- Take action through a variety of means in a coordinated approach; and
- Agree to continue the discussion and periodically refresh the idea list to reflect the changing times, conditions and values of the community.

Report Format

To respect the efforts of participants, feedback has been documented in this report as captured on the flip charts during the workshop. Subject headings have been added to the Opportunities & Solutions sub-sections of the report to help bring focus to the numerous and varied ideas. To round out the report, context has also been provided in terms of: what has already been accomplished by the community in noted issue areas; and what relevant work is currently underway or being planned for the future.

No One Way, No One Person

As with any issue where continued progress towards a goal or vision is desired, there is no one, or right way, to affect change. Following on the above statement, there is obviously no one person responsible for making the change happen. Saanich as a Community has a long and honourable history of taking care of and helping each other. This important work continues today and will undoubtedly continue as we grow and change as a community over the next 5 – 10 – 30 years.



The purpose of this section of the report is to both inform and remind citizens how they can become involved at the Local Government Level in working on building a healthier community. Clearly, some of the issues and ideas raised during the workshop would require the support or approval of senior levels of government. In terms of Saanich, the two key Local Government policy documents and processes are outlined below.



Official Community Plan

The current Official Community Plan (OCP) was adopted in 2008 after extensive community consultation. The OCP is a guide for Council, the community, staff and other stakeholders to help make decisions on future growth and change in the community. The Saanich OCP is based on the principle of Sustainability, which requires an effective balance between the environment, social well-being and a healthy local economy. The subject matter covered in the OCP is very broad and includes the vast majority of items raised during the Healthy Saanich Workshop.

Getting Involved:

Official Community Plans typically go through a major review every 10 - 15 years, with minor amendments made between this review period as required. Amendments to the OCP require public consultation.

Local Area Plans also form part of the Official Community Plan. Where the OCP is more general in nature, Local Area Plans address details unique to neighbourhoods or those issues which can be better addressed at a local level. A process of updating the Local Area Plans is proposed to commence in 2015. As with the development of the OCP, Local Area Plan updates also involve significant opportunities for the public to participate and provide input.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is the Municipal work plan, which outlines on an annual basis what key initiatives are to be done to achieve the Vision, Objectives and Goals of the Official Community Plan. The Strategic Plan also measures how well progress is being made towards reaching these Goals.

Getting Involved:

The Strategic Plan is reviewed each year and involves opportunities for public review and feedback. The Strategic Plan annual review process is tied to the annual budget process, to ensure key priority action items are funded.



Discussion Themes

Social Well Being

Workshop Feedback

Issues

- Within Saanich large disparity between neighbourhoods.
- Large areas with no services
- Mental health-societal attitudes
- Impact of technology
- Social interaction
- Personal choices/responsibilities
- Balance-action-rest
- Saanich recreation could be capitalized
- Location shortages for community kitchens
- Decentralization of services and events creates more access
- Services must reflect community/neighbourhood need
- Sense of community-social impact-feeling like being part of some thing-sense of belonging
- Addiction-What sparks turn around??
- Nutrition
- Isolation: seniors, Aboriginal people, children- all segregated by buildings/location
- Recreation centres could contribute more
- Belonging/isolation: New comers; age focus; demographics and; addiction mental illness
- Promoting communities
- Neighbourhoods
- Interest groups
- Cultural groups
- Faith/political groups
- Communication: multigenerational
- Internet is isolating
- Quality affordable daycare
- More diverse community unable to connect with the mainstream
- Events to celebrate diversity
- Who do we chose to interact with outside the home
- Inadequate accessibility for mental health and awareness

Opportunities & Solutions

Promote Civic Responsibility:

- Contribute; involvement in community issues
- Welcome neighbours, social attitude, caring, know your neighbours
- Ombudsperson of Saanich, help with the function of community

Engage the Community:

- Municipal government to invite public to give input on certain issues'
- Group focus; access to public facilities
- Better advertising of events, services and looking for volunteers
- Events could include entire community
- Saanich News could have "Community Calendar"
- Social media for events in Saanich
- "Best Buddies" school program could go out into communities
- Get out into the community like at voting time

Plan for People:

As part of development plan for:

- Affordability
- Neighbourhood activities
- Street potlucks
- Public gardens-shared veggies
- Working for the common good
- Animals in the community-urban chickens
- Community based food education-schools, rec centres; libraries, community centres
- Integrating food production into current green space
- Urban wildlife control

Build Healthier Inclusive Communities:

- Why so many mental health Issues?
- Disenfranchised community members
- Mental health response falls to police
- Disparity among Neighbourhoods
- Substance abuse
- Social capital generation and maintenance

Social Well Being

Context

Context:

Key issues raised during the Social Well-Being Theme discussion were: 1) Promoting Civic Responsibility; 2) Engaging the Community; 3) Planning for People as part of developments; and 4) Building Healthier/Inclusive Communities.

Official Community Plan:

Section 5.0 of the Official Community Plan (OCP) focuses on the importance of Social Wellbeing in terms of achieving both a sustainable environment and in relation to the essential social infrastructure necessary for individuals and family to be “healthy” in the broader sense of the word.

Social-Wellbeing in the OCP and its policies is broken into two elements: 1) Basic Needs such as nutrition, housing, sufficient income, and public health and safety; and 2) Opportunities for learning, faith, recreation, creativity, community identity, citizen engagement and cooperation.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives currently being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- A new Youth Development Strategy will be prepared. A key objective is to rethink youth programming so to better meet the needs of youth;
- In conjunction with health sector partners new Age Friendly Community Programs will be developed to better address the needs of our aging population;
- Updating of the 12 Local Area Plans will commence in 2015, which will help address key issues in neighbourhoods;
- Use and management Plans for newly acquired park land and open space will be prepared starting later this year – Panama Flats, Haro Woods, and Beckwith Park/Blenkinsop Lake and Valewood Park;
- A Public Process Handbook was developed in 2014 to help new citizens better understand how local government works and ways of participating in public process. In addition improving the Saanich website to improve public engagement will be undertaken in 2015; and
- In spring of next year the annual process of meeting with all of the Neighbourhood Associations will continue. These meetings are an opportunity for citizens and staff to talk about issues of interest to each neighbourhood.

Housing

Workshop Feedback

Issues

- Affordable housing/pride of ownership
- Difference between subsidized and non subsidized
- Workforce housing
- Multi sector partnerships
- Support for senior/youth-social isolation
- Cost-utilities/food/clothing
- Social gathering within a complex
- Longer term planning
- More community consultation on development
- More options to choose from
- Wealth transfer going to rent not relatives
- Mixed sized planning community-street orientation-downsizing
- Close to amenities and transportation
- Planning green-space for your community-street orientation, parks and open space
- Condos/townhouses should include rental units
- Condense housing to create more open space
- Encourage the use of alternate energy choices when developing projects
- Saanich should charge owners \$100/year parking permit for tenants
- Expand secondary suites
- Accelerate affordable housing by acquiring land-leaving legacy? Tax break?
- MURBS-federal funding
- Developers to contribute to a housing trust

Opportunities & Solutions

- More community consultation- monster houses/mixed sizes/density
- Longer term planning-not piece meal
- Support for senior/youth housing
- Over-arching affordable housing
- MURBS-investment opportunities
- Draw on all levels of government to invest-not just at election time!
- Align planning principles/zoning to the needs of occupants-community
- Available infrastructure to support medium/large developments especially traffic
- Legalize suites
- Bring developers around to understand community needs

Housing

Context

Context:

Key issues raised during the Housing Theme discussion were: 1) Need for Affordable and Rental Housing; 2) Need to develop Senior, Workforce and Youth Housing; 3) Take a Partnership Approach to development of Housing; 4) Plan for a Variety of Housing types in Saanich; and 5) Investigate a variety of financing options/incentives to promote affordable housing.

Official Community Plan:

The need for a range of quality Housing in Saanich is addressed throughout the Official Community Plan in a variety of ways. The majority of Housing policies are found in Section 5.1.2 of the document. In general the goal is to provide a range of housing by type, tenure and location. In order to develop in a more sustainable manner, the vast majority of future residential growth is to be focused in Villages, Centres and Major corridors well serviced by public transit. Limited infill in established neighbourhoods is acknowledged in the OCP.

Through Council's commitment to the policies of the OCP and the Regional Housing Affordability Strategy, we have been able to secure housing units for a broad range of citizens including: seniors; youth; homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless; rental housing; and both low and middle income first time home buyers.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- In terms of the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan, Saanich will continue to work with the private sector, other levels of government and non-profit organizations to secure more affordable housing units in Saanich through a variety of means;
- In 2013 - 2014 through the redevelopment process and working in partnership with non-profit groups and developers we secured 6 additional dwelling units with Habitat for Humanity; 45 units for homeless seniors, and those at risk of becoming homeless in conjunction with Cool Aid; and 103 units of dedicated rental housing. We are also currently working with a local developer on an alternative financing approach to support first time homeowners to get into the market;
- Secondary suites which make up a significant component of Saanich's rental housing and helps to make home ownership more affordable, are permitted South of McKenzie Avenue. A consultation process is currently underway to consider suites in a defined area north of McKenzie;
- The Saanich Affordable Housing Fund has been in place for over 5 years. During that period most multiple family and mixed use developments have contributed between 1000 and 2000 dollars per dwelling unit to the Saanich Fund. Most recently the Fund has been used to assist with reducing required infrastructure servicing costs for a first stage shelter project for the homeless; and
- Rosalie's Village, a 40 unit housing project for low income senior women and single women with children, is anticipated to break ground in the spring.

Food Security

Workshop Feedback

Issues

- Affordability, quality of food and supply
- Community Kitchens and healthy food
- Neighbourhood-markets, gardens, production
- UBCM to coordinate a provincial food strategy
- Farm Lands Trust
- Public land ownership
- Reduce waste
- Support local growing
- Local access
- GMOs
- Fuel costs
- Local production-grow-distribute-consume
- Preserve and increase agricultural land
- Water
- Farmers, fish farmers
- Climate change
- Food vs. local healthy food
- Affordable for the disadvantaged
- Food gap-quality
- Food banks of 1980's
- Decentralize food supply
- Sustainability-native crops/plants
- Food production visible-in every neighbourhood, public, school yard gardens
- Public food generation should be made part of the OCP
- Soil health
- Day supply
- Small farms: big farms
- Corporate ownership of farms
- Seed banking
- Packaging, processing
- Food education

Opportunities & Solutions

Public Food Production:

- School gardens
- Community kitchens
- More education of farming food production
- Mix farms with trail system
- Mix generations around food
- Gardens set aside for those with mobility issues
- Bring Parks and Recreation together with urban agriculture
- Crime prevention through environmental design. How do community gardens impact the community at-large?
- Strong impact on social capital
- Philippines-urban agriculture part of the emergency security strategy

Grass Roots:

- School gardens
- Community gardens
- Market gardens
- Food sharing
- Empowering/enabling youth

Enabling policies:

- UBCM Provincial policies
- School boards
- Municipal-make it easy, decrease bureaucracy
- Support local growing/food production through economic tax incentives, growing incentives
- Land protection and addition
- Public ownership
- Share land

Food Security

Context

Context:

Key issues raised during the Food Security Theme discussion were: 1) the need to support public food productions; 2) to focus on grass root initiatives; and 3) to develop enabling policies and reduce regulatory barriers.

Official Community Plan & Climate Action Plans:

The Official Community Plan (Section 5.1.1) addresses Food Security in a variety of ways. Focus is placed on: protection of valuable farmland; supporting both new and existing farmers; encouraging backyard and community “farming”; and working towards building greater community resiliency in relation to emergency events (earthquake) and Climate Change. Food Security also forms part of Saanich’s Climate Action Program.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- Inclusion of Panama Flats into the Agricultural Land Reserve and the issuance of a call for Expressions of Interest regarding the farming of the land will occur later this year;
- The Communities in Harvest Program which assists citizens in gaining the skills necessary for backyard/small plot gardening and preserving food continues in 2014;
- For those citizens without access to a backyard, Saanich continues to work towards the goal of one community garden in each neighbourhood;
- Terms of reference for the development of a Local Agriculture and Food Security Committee and Strategy will be presented to Council in the next couple of months. This committee would focus on the policy/program gaps that need to be addressed and provide input on new and emerging ideas related to farming and food security. The Peninsula Agriculture Commission would also play a vital role as well; and
- Council recently endorsed the idea of a Local/Regional Farmland Trust and asked staff to provide feedback and options for consideration. Access to land for new farmers is one of the issues that the Trust would look at. This matter will be brought to Council for review and consideration later this year.

Transportation

Workshop Feedback

Issues

- Congestion
- Connectivity-infrastructure and accessibility
- Mobility choices
- Building code
- Health cost
- Sprawl-change planning and land use and other externals
- Speed limits pedestrian connections
- Cycling safety-separated lanes
- Allocation of road space/design
- Next generation changes
- On street parking
- Narrowing of existing roads
- Transition timelines-how to retro fit
- Transit integration
- Senior needs
- Regional transportation planning for proper funding
- Land use planning/transit connections
- Community design to reduce demand for autos/road design
- Large street signage
- Reduce default speed limits
- Expand trail systems
- Consistency between municipalities signage and rules
- More neighbourhood transit
- Invest in infrastructure that encourages alternate modes –charging stations
- Road pricing – real information about cost of mode choices
- Political decision makers need to walk the talk
- Encourage local business partnerships
- Lack of respect
- Cycling paths
- Public transportation- need more better allocation of funds
- Light rail

Opportunities & Solutions

Centres:

- Town centres (focus traffic)
- Developer funding infrastructure-allow parking variances
- User pay systems-tolls and congestion fees
- Density NIMBY
- More park and rides – fewer cars in city core

Balancing the Transportation System:

- Public bike and car share programs
- Education for public and politicians
- Funding allocation distorted: gas tax for roads not property tax
- Encourage more pedestrian traffic
- Save money by adding cycling, pedestrian and transit: health and environmental benefits
- (Improve) Ease of moving from mode to mode

Transportation

Workshop Feedback

Issues *continued*

- Traffic flow
- Affordability of transit
- Pollution from transportation
- Protect future transportation corridors
- Process for planning; Sayward vs Sewage vs Blue Bridge
- Mindset change-get out of cars
- Bike lanes-need more
- Alternate modes- safety cars must yield
- Signage
- Public transit in rural areas
- Increase sidewalks
- Public will for funding of transit
- Increase number of park and rides
- Amsterdam/Copenhagen: Cyclists and pedestrians at the top of the list
- Education about why we make the transportation choices we do.
- Town Centres-focus traffic
- Developer funded infrastructure- allow parking variances
- User pay systems: tolls and congestion fees
- Public bike shares
- Car share programs
- Public education
- Politician education
- Density- NIMBY
- Save money by increasing cycling, pedestrian and transit- health benefits and environmental benefits
- Funding allocation distorted: Gas tax- not property tax to fund roads
- Encourage more pedestrians
- Connectivity : multi modal
 - ease of moving mode to mode
 - more park and rides



Transit bus pulling away from a stop

Transportation

Context

Context:

Key issues raised during the Transportation Theme discussion were: 1) addressing traffic safety and congestion in Centres; and 2) balancing the transportation system.

Official Community Plan:

The Official Community Plan calls for traffic and alternative mobility issues to be addressed through: 1) changes in land use where more people have the option to walk, cycle or take public transit to a Village or Centre where most of their daily needs can be met; and 2) supporting cycling, walking and public transit through infrastructure upgrades, improved transit service, and improved facilities such as more bus shelters, end of trip facilities for cyclists and a comprehensive way-finding program.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- Between 2014 and 2016 “Complete Street” projects will be undertaken for key sections of Cook Street, Tillicum Road, and Glanford Avenue. For those unfamiliar with the term “Complete Streets” it is a design approach that ensures transportation corridors are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities;
- Over the next five years Saanich will work with BC Transit to ensure our interests are included in key Major projects such as: Uptown Centre Transit Exchange; planning and implementation of the Douglas Street Rapid transit corridor; and planning and implementation of regional rapid transit;
- To enhance pedestrian safety and mobility in 2014 the engineering specifications for pedestrian facilities will be updated in relation to Major and Neighbourhood Centres”;
- Alternative parking standards in Centres and Villages are also being reviewed, to see if there are effective means for minimizing the negative impacts of parking and encouraging use of alternative transportation;
- Saanich will also continue its program of building more sidewalks and bike lanes in key area of the community;
- In 2014 and 2015 work with the CRD in the development of a Regional Transportation Plan that will include an implementation strategy and funding options; and
- In 2014 and 2015 intersections with the highest incidences of injury and/or damage will be improved through physical changes, changes in regulation and increased enforcement.

Issues

- Natural Capital
- Climate Change
- Sea level rising
- Extreme weather events
- Adaption to new climate/food security
- Infrastructure
- Use of automobiles
- Emissions
- Vehicles dominating the landscape
- Rebate programs for public transit users
- Carpooling programs-community driven
- Electric vehicles
- More park and ride areas
- More transit
- Reduce speed limits to decrease traffic and emissions
- Community design
- Waste management-energy and efficient disposal
- Community –natural systems-fostering nature
- Natural/build environment interface-protection of wildlife
- Urban/rural dichotomy-naturescaping
- Protection of natural habitats-contributions by rural residents
- Panama Flats-preservation of land/natural space
- Gary oak ecosystems
- Shrinking tree canopy
- Building up verses building out
- Boulevard gardening versus guerrilla gardening
- Communal gardens versus community gardens
- Urban agriculture
- Unused garden space

Opportunities & Solutions

Watersheds:

- Watershed principles should apply to ALL watersheds not just Bowker Creek, include Colquitz watershed, most of Saanich is in a watershed.
- Saanich wide watershed management plan based on BCI principles.
- Flood plain protection for bird habitats, healthy creeks
- Urban watershed management group
- Monitoring oil tanks near creeks

Water:

- Daylighting then mapping and protecting
- Wells for human consumption
- Measuring contents of storm water and the re-using the water
- Swales in residential/commercial properties
- Encourage native plant gardens on private properties-restore natural habitats, less water-provide incentives

Education:

- Public Service announcements: online, radio, T.V., newspaper, using environmentally aware youth to increase public awareness of carbon footprint
- Increasing signage to protect wildlife
- Increasing environmental awareness in youth
- Comprehensive environmental education programs through public parks and community/communal garden centres

Greenhouse Gases:

- Reducing traffic speed limits to reduce traffic and emissions
- Electric cars and more transit, more park and rides
- Rebate programs for transit riders, car-pooling programs that are community driven
- Natural gas, shore power, wind/solar power

Environment

Workshop Feedback

Issues *continued*

- Watersheds: Bowker Creek; Water Quality- storm water
- Run off; Daylighting buried creeks
- Saanich Parks inventory: access to park land: Public/private debate
- Cedar Hill Clay Courts
- Size of parks/trails: concern that size is decreasing leading to congestion in existing parks
- Protection of greenspace around homes and commercial building: frequently using concrete instead of greenspace.
- Composition of man made materials-concrete
- Inter-regional cooperation
- Radiation exposure: cell phones, cell phone towers, WIFI, smart metres, electronics

Opportunities & Solutions *continued*

Natural Environment:

- Preserve portions of natural environment free from human contact
- Tree Preservation

Parks:

- Creating bylaws to protect existing parks and creation of new parks

Waste:

- More effective solid waste reduction/recycling



View from Mt. Tolmie - Looking South

Environment

Context

Context:

Key issues raised as part of the Environment Theme area were: 1) reduction of greenhouse gases; 2) need for continuing education; 3) protection of the natural environment; 4) planning for new and existing parkland; and 5) protection of our watersheds, watercourses and well/ground water; 6) need for more effective waste reduction and recycling.

Official Community Plan & Climate Action Plans:

The Official Community Plan is based on the principle of Sustainability. It clearly acknowledges that without a Healthy Environment, Social Well-being and Economic Vitality are not possible. OCP policies focus on: protection and restoration of the environment; growth management; a rebalancing of our mobility network to better support pedestrians, cyclists and public transit; action on Climate Change in regard to both mitigation and adaptation; and ongoing education on all fronts.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- Implementation of both the Climate Action Plan and Climate Change Adaptation Plan will continue in 2014. Alone, the Saanich Climate Action Plan pulled together 88 existing and new actions from all Saanich Departments. Almost all of these actions are now completed or are under development. The Municipality has reached five milestones for both corporate and community programs, making it just the 8th municipality or city in Canada to achieve this status and the first on Vancouver Island;
- Saanich continues to dedicate significant staff resources to ongoing environmental education. Partnerships with a variety of non-profit groups, other local governments and educational institutions helps stretch resources even further. Most recently in conjunction with WildBC, educational curriculum was produced and piloted in two local middle schools;
- As an outcome of the Urban Forest Strategy, recent progress has been made on improving the effectiveness of the Tree Bylaw;
- Work continues on management of Invasive Species and minimize their impacts on natural ecosystems and local farming;
- Protection of the natural environment continues through a number of programs and through regulations such as the relatively new Environmental Development Permit Areas (EDPA). The goal of the new EDPA is to protect the areas of highest biodiversity within Saanich; require mitigation during development; and require restoration to damaged or degraded ecosystems during development; and
- Greener Garbage Collection program got underway earlier this year. The waste diversion from the landfill and the composting of materials for re-use, will be of significant environmental benefit.

Issues

Parks, Recreation & Green-space:

- Recreation/Green-space: more partnerships with community groups or community clubs
- Use of green-space for the future of the community –strategic ally planned
- Vanishing green-spaces: processes and the strategic plan; bylaw review
- No clear values/principles to work on green-space usage
- Work with all levels of government on land/green-space located within Saanich
- No specific plans for specific parks and green-space-stay true to vision statements and approved/finalized documents-staffing and responsibility and budget shared with community
- Inventory of all Saanich Parks
- Disconnect of values with Council and Communities
- Wildlife corridors
- Each park to have its own management plan-different than the Master Plan

Community Health & Safety:

- Speeding
- Teenage drunkenness
- Night visibility
- Neighbourhood emergency preparedness
- Infrastructure damage water safety
- Alignment of public safety planning with OCP
- Perception of anxieties over public safety
- Integrity of preparedness programs in the event of disaster
- Integrity of infrastructure; open communication/integrity of buildings
- Social disorder; speeding, drunkenness
- Mental health supports

Opportunities & Solutions

Park Strategy:

- Start by consulting the community that live close to green-space
- Strategy for parks development will vary from park to park depending on community needs/wishes
- Accountability/budget implementation/responsibility
- Future green-space planning should be required planning process
- Large topic and definition of green-space: Parks and Rec or Environmental Department responsibility?, community consultation-implementation
- Define green-space in each community plan-ensure there is enough – create livable space
- Look at all the water ways in Saanich- look at which Department this falls under
- For all ages (look at area demographics)
- Inventory of all green-space
- Plan for green-space consulting with the community who are familiar with the area
- Micro greens concept-designed green-space
- Clarify roles of: Parks, recreation, green-space
- Define/separate; parks/recreation/environment
- Each green-space/park to have its own plan (appropriate for that particular community and looking at the demographics and what is available to them-parks, recreation and green-space-all with community consultation-Result will be work smarter allocating appropriate budget
- Define: park, green-space, natural space, water, wildlife
- How to create green-space through dedicated lanes proposed for development, how to use land?
- Public education and cohesion

Issues *continued*

Energy & Emissions:

- Electrical consumption
- BC monopoly on energy
- Resiliency
- Local alternatives
- Generation of alternative energy sources
- One person per car
- Diversity of energy grid
- Need alternate infrastructure/systems

Opportunities & Solutions *continued*

Emergency Preparedness:

- Self-sustaining communities are stronger and more resilient in disasters
- Integrity of disaster programs, buildings
- Promote emergency preparedness
- Build on existing programs
- Regional disaster strategy
- Speed up CAP in Saanich
- Communication infrastructure-2 way radio, CB radio
- Supports for mental health



Bowker Creek in Browning Park

Context:

Key issues raised as part of the Other Theme area were: 1) need for a parkland strategy; 2) the need to reduce energy consumption and look at alternative /local energy; and 3) the need to become more resilient as a community in relation to an emergency situation and climate change.

Official Community Plan, Parks Recreation & Culture Master Plan, Park Natural Areas Action Plan, Saanich Park Property Inventory, Climate Action Plans & Emergency Plan:

The Official Community Plan and other documents noted above, provide a framework for both action and decision making related to planning for parkland, climate change, energy management and becoming more resilient in relation to a range of emergencies.

Action:

There are numerous initiatives being undertaken by a number of Departments, and in partnership with the Community.

Some recent successes and upcoming projects are:

- While not recent, the incremental community success of amassing significant public green space including natural areas, sports fields, playgrounds, multi-use trails, urban forest, beach accesses, and boulevard enhancements is worth celebrating. In 2012, there were 168 parks, covering approximately 800 hectares. This translates to 8.03% of the entire area of Saanich;
- Park planning and implementation continues, most recently at Gyro-Cadboro Bay Park and Gorge Waterway Park. It is important to note that, while community based projects can bring out conflicting ideas and opinions, Saanich remains committed to public engagement;
- The Saanich Emergency Plan has been in place for many years and training and community outreach occur on a regular basis. Volunteer opportunities are numerous in terms of making the community more resilient;
- A municipal Emergency Communication Plan is being developed and will be implemented over the course of the next two years. This Plan will incorporate lessons learned from emergencies such as the recent Calgary Flooding to ensure effective use of social media, the web, and other means of communication with residents;
- Saanich will also continue ongoing work to ensure the resiliency of critical infrastructure that could be impacted as a result of Climate Change and/or emergency events such as an earthquake. The upgrading of the recently completed Craigflower Bridge and the Wilkinson Bridge in 2016 are examples of such projects; and
- As noted in the previous section there are numerous ongoing initiatives related to taking action on Climate Change through both mitigation and adaptation.

A grayscale photograph of a person riding a bicycle on a street. The person is wearing a dark hoodie and a messenger bag, riding away from the camera. The street is lined with parked cars, including a silver sedan and a white SUV. In the background, there are bare trees and a utility pole. The text "Moving Forward" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

Moving Forward

Moving Forward

- The outcomes from the workshop will act as an **Idea Resource Pool** for a broad range of users and potential projects or initiatives in the Community.
- Obviously ideas, opportunities and solutions raised as part of the **Healthy Saanich Workshop** are not exhaustive, but reflect the thoughts of a broad range of citizens at a set moment in time. Consideration could be given to holding a **similar event, at regular intervals**.
- **Local Area Plans** which form part of the Official Community Plan will be updated as part of a multi-year program, starting in 2015. A work plan will be brought forward for Council review and consideration later this year.
- This fall and into the spring, the **Annual Review and Update of the Strategic Plan** will be undertaken. As previously noted, the Strategic Plan is the work plan for the municipality, that helps move us towards the vision, goals and objectives of the Official Community Plan. The Strategic Plan process is linked with the Annual Budget Process, to ensure key priority action items are funded. Committees of Council, Neighbourhood Associations and the public in general, all play a role in both of these review processes.
- There are **endless projects going on throughout Saanich in any given year**. In terms of the municipality, the list of priority projects can be found in the **Strategic Plan**, progress made is documented in an **Annual Report**, and financial choices and decisions are documented in Saanich's **Financial Plan**. All of these documents can be found on-line, and hard copies can be obtained at the Municipal Hall.



Saanich Strawberry Festival at Beaver Lake Park