

## City to Host Public Open Houses to Review Draft OCP *PLAN Parksville: A Vision For Our Future*

The City of Parksville's draft Official Community Plan (OCP) is now ready for public review and the community is invited to drop by one of two scheduled events to review the City of Parksville draft OCP. Open houses will be held **Tuesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 28** from 2 pm to 7 pm at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre, 132 Jensen Avenue East.

The City is hosting two separate public open house meetings to present the draft OCP; the public need only attend one of the open houses. Display panels will be organized in themes (*Land Use, Open Space/Parks, Utilities, Development Permit Areas*) and there will be ample opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments.

The draft OCP will be available for viewing at the City's planning department counter, from the City's website and at the open houses.

Your feedback on the City's draft OCP as presented at the February 26 and February 28 open houses is invited until March 14, 2013. Feedback forms will be provided at the open houses and from the home page of the City's website. Comments may also be submitted in writing to the Current Planning and Building Department. There will be more opportunities for input as the OCP update moves from draft to adoption.

The draft OCP builds on the directions established in the existing OCP and incorporates the results of recent public processes that have taken place over the past two years. Some of these include the Citizen Advisory and Community Advisory committees, open houses, workshops and online surveys. To date, the City's OCP update process has included these elements:

- OCP launch
- Appointment of Citizen Advisory and Community Advisory committees
- *Create Our Future* community dialogue workshops
- *Vision in Action* youth forums
- Urban Magnets workshop
- *Re-connect* public information session
- OCP workshop and open house
- *Summer by the Sea Street Market* public engagement
- Ongoing online surveys and input
- Telephone survey
- Open houses to release the draft OCP

The City looks forward to hosting the open houses and to comments and suggestions from the public.

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For more information, please contact:

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# PLAN PARKSVILLE - A Vision For Our Future

## Background

In May 2010, the City of Parksville initiated a review of its 2002 Official Community Plan (OCP). OCPs are typically reviewed every five to seven years to ensure that the vision, goals and objectives remain current and relevant to the community over time. Legislative changes at the federal and provincial level may also prompt an OCP review. Reviewing and updating an OCP is a significant endeavour and requires the involvement and participation of many people and agencies. The following milestones have occurred to date:

- OCP launch
- Appointment of Citizen Advisory and Community Advisory committees
- Create Our Future* community dialogue workshops
- Vision in Action* youth forums
- Urban Magnets* workshop
- Re-connect* public information session
- OCP Workshop and open house
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## What is an Official Community Plan?

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is a Council-adopted bylaw that sets out a community vision. It will guide decisions affecting future land use, growth and change. Provincial legislation provides direction and guidance about the development and contents of an OCP which includes setting targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, identifying the location and types of land uses and strategies to protect the environment. In addition to updating policies for sustainability, accessibility and environmental protection, this draft OCP builds on the 2002 OCP and affirms the direction and goals the municipality set at that time.

In order to help guide the future development of municipalities in British Columbia, the province authorized municipalities to adopt community plans under the Local Government Act. In accordance with the Act, "*an official community plan is a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management within the area covered by the plan,*" (Section 875(1)).

Once adopted, an Official Community Plan serves as the foundation for all subsequent policies, regulations, and decisions pertaining to land use and development in a municipality. "*All bylaws enacted or works undertaken by a Council... after the adoption of an official community plan... shall be consistent with the... plan.*" (Section 884(2)).

An OCP is an evolving document designed to accommodate changing conditions. For this reason, OCPs are reviewed and updated every five to ten years in British Columbia. The purpose of the OCP is to:

- Set out the community vision and values which will guide decision-making for the future of Parksville.
- Clarify for residents, businesses and organizations, the primary goals, objectives and policies that will help the City achieve the community's vision.

