



PLAN NANAIMO

COMMUNITY CONFERENCE SUMMARY

You are invited to help decide where we live, work and play. The 10-Year Review for the City of Nanaimo Official Community Plan (Plan Nanaimo) is a public process intended to reaffirm and build on strategies for meeting the many growth challenges the City continues to face.

This review is intended to update the City's Official Community Plan (OCP), which will guide Council in making development decisions for the next 25 years.

Over the past six weeks leading up to the 2006-NOV-18 Community Conference, backgrounders have been presented to discuss the various goals laid out in **Plan Nanaimo** (available on the City website at www.nanaimo.ca). This "Backgrounder" is intended to summarize input received during the Conference, which was attended by almost 200 residents.

What Is An Official Community Plan?

The BC *Local Government Act* defines an Official Community Plan (OCP) as "a statement of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land use management, within the area covered by the plan, respecting the purposes of local government."

In broad terms, an OCP sets out the location, type, and density of all types of land use, from residential and commercial to industrial, utilities and parks. An OCP can also include policies relating to social needs, agricultural activities, and preservation, protection, and restoration of the natural environment.

The 10-Year Review is intended to determine:

- How well have we done in meeting the **PLAN NANAIMO** goals for shaping development, land use and other aspects of living in Nanaimo?
- Where are the successes and the shortcomings?
- Are these the right goals to carry forward through the next 25 years?

The City of Nanaimo needs citizen involvement to help answer these questions.

Building Complete, Viable Communities and Managing Urban Growth

Residents provided comments on building complete communities and managing urban growth:

Building Complete, Viable Communities

- Residents identified the need for mixed uses and densities throughout the community, including within town centres and neighbourhood areas.
- Town centres are currently focused on shopping malls. As such, the Plan has not achieved targets for residential densities within these areas.
- A variety of opinions were expressed on the siting and design of high rise buildings.
- A new goal is required within Plan Nanaimo to address social issues within the community. Social issues were recognized as an important part of the community, and there is a need to focus on providing affordable housing, early childhood development, and seniors facilities.
- Need to create economic development opportunities to attract and retain all segments of the workforce, particularly young people.

Managing Urban Growth

- When the Urban Containment Boundary was established in 1996, was it drawn in the right location? Does it need to be amended? (*Some participants felt it should not be changed; others recommended a variety of changes.*)
- Density distribution and availability of commercial and other services throughout the community. Should density be focused along major arterials to support public transit?
- Plan Nanaimo should recognize Malaspina University-College as a growth centre.
- The Urban Containment Boundary needs to protect agricultural lands as food security will increasingly become an issue in the future.

Protecting the Environment and Improving Mobility and Servicing

Residents provided comments on protecting the environment and improving mobility and servicing:

Protecting the Environment

- Residents identified the need to protect active, parkland areas for use by the community, and conservation areas that would provide wildlife habitat and protect ecologically sensitive areas.
- Expansion of the recycling program, with emphasis to provide additional opportunities for composting programs and expanded curbside pickup.
- The City should provide opportunities for community gardens and develop food policy and green building initiatives as positive steps to protecting the environment.
- Given what is known about climate change, should the OCP consider, for example, 100-year policies within its scope?

Improving Mobility and Servicing

- Residents identified the need to continue to encourage alternative forms of transportation, including public transit, cycling opportunities and pedestrian opportunities.
- Continued extension of the trail network throughout the community to provide for alternative transportation methods.
- Residential densities in neighbourhoods are too low to support viable transit services.
- The City needs to consider alternative stormwater management techniques to meet sustainability goals.
- The City needs to determine whether it is cost-effective to extend servicing to areas beyond the urban containment boundary prior to infill development in other parts of the community. What are the long-term cost implications?



10 OCP amendment applications have been received for consideration as part of the 10-Year OCP review. A summary of these applications will be provided in next week's 'Backgrounder'.

Get Involved!

Attend a Public Open House!

Tuesday, 2006-DEC-05
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
John Barsby Community School Library
550 7th Street

Upcoming Sessions

Watch the newspapers and City website for more information about upcoming public consultation sessions and opportunity for input into the OCP 10-Year Review. These sessions are scheduled to be held in the new year.

Need More Information?

Contact us to find out about other ways to obtain information or participate in the **PLAN NANAIMO 10-Year Review**.

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View **PLAN NANAIMO** on the City website, or at the Vancouver Island Library downtown branch, Malaspina University-College library, or City Hall (copies available for purchase).

