

Terms of Reference
for the
Environment Committee
of the
Rockland Neighbourhood Association

Mandate: (authority)

1) The Board's mission, directly from the Board's Strategic Plan:

- To promote, facilitate coordinate, support or undertake activities that will enhance the quality of life and the environment of the Rockland Neighbourhood, and
- To provide a vehicle for public participation in the preservation and enhancement of the unique qualities which have come to characterize the Rockland Neighbourhood.

These activities are supported by a public process whereby Rockland residents have the opportunity to express their views and thus influence all matters concerning the neighbourhood.

2) excerpts from City of Victoria Official Community Plan. (see appendix 1)

Section 9 PARKS AND RECREATION

http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/OCP_Section-9_Parks-and-Recreation.pdf

Section 10 ENVIRONMENT

http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/OCP_Section-10_Environment.pdf

Section 17 FOOD SYSTEMS

http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/OCP_Section-17_Food-Systems.pdf

Section 21 NEIGHBOURHOOD DIRECTIONS

http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/Replaced/OCP_section_21_neighbourhood_direction_web.pdf

The environment committee is chaired by a member of the Board of the Rockland Neighbourhood Association.

Initially, the work of the committee includes:

- Participation in City-led initiatives such as The Urban Forest Strategy
- Liaison with City Parks staff and Engineering staff to publicize their initiatives.
 - Greenways
 - People-powered transportation

- Noxious weed management
 - Boulevard Program and Urban Food Production
 - Leaf and branch pick-up
 - Stormwater Management
- Responding to environmental issues, concerns and opportunities identified by neighbourhood residents
- Disseminating information and gathering feedback
- Identifying and supporting projects that will foster a sense of community while serving to enhance the neighbourhood environment.

Committee Membership

Any RNA member who would like to participate in various aspects of the committee's work.

Reporting

- The committee reports to the board through the chair.
- Reports to the membership are primarily through the NEIGHBOURS list serve
- It is anticipated that open houses will be scheduled in 2016 to publicize the work of the committee, potential projects and initiatives, and to recruit new committee members.

APPENDIX 1

Mandate – excerpts from City of Victoria Official Community Plan.

Section 9 PARKS AND RECREATION

Greenways are envisioned to play a more prominent role in the city, expanding on their functions as human-powered transportation corridors and to provide an enhanced recreational experience. The plan also encourages parks to be planned and designed to meet the needs of many different users and uses.

Objectives include

- 9 (b) That a well-connected, clearly identifiable, and multi-functional network of greenways is established across the city.
- 9.1.3 Improve the connection of parks and open spaces to Urban Villages, Town Centres and other destinations through improvements to pedestrian, cycling and greenway networks;
- 9.1.4 Protect and restore the function of sensitive ecosystems and natural areas, including the development of habitat corridors; and,
- 9.1.5 Recommend appropriate directions for parks management, design, planning and acquisition.

Greenways

- 9.7 Implement the City's Greenways Plan as shown in Map 6, seeking opportunities to enhance recreational opportunities, identity, green features and the pedestrian and cycling experience by [See also Section 7 – Transportation and Mobility]:
 - 9.7.1 Integrating Urban Villages, Town Centres, parks, open spaces, recreational facilities and other common destinations into the greenways network;
 - 9.7.2 Restoring terrestrial and aquatic habitats, enhancing the urban forest, and improving habitat connectivity;
 - 9.7.3 Piloting green infrastructure and urban food production in greenways;
 - 9.7.4 Strengthening the visual identity of the greenways system to aid with greenway navigation and increase the prominence of the network;
 - 9.7.5 Integrating elements that reflect unique neighbourhood character and identity, such as signage, public art, and streetscape treatments;
 - 9.7.6 Enhancing the greenways network along the waterfront by completing the multi-modal Harbour Pathway and better integrating connections to existing pedestrian and cycling networks; and,
 - 9.7.7 Integrating the greenways network within a regional system.

Ecosystem management in Parks

- 9.8 Recognize and enhance the ecosystem services provided by parks and open space, including design to enhance biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and air and water quality [See also Section 10 – Environment and Section 11 – Infrastructure].
- 9.9 Plan and manage natural areas in parks to protect and restore natural ecosystems, including the development of habitat corridors to connect to other remnant ecosystems for the movement of native flora and fauna.
- 9.10 Identify additional areas for ecological protection and restoration in parks, and develop appropriate management strategies and practices.
- 9.11 Work collaboratively with other levels of government, organizations and citizens to protect and restore native ecosystems and species at risk within City parks and open spaces [See also Section 10 – Environment].

Section 10 ENVIRONMENT

http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Planning~Development/Community~Planning/OCP/OCP_Section-10_Environment.pdf

(Goal) Victoria's urban forests and public and private green spaces support healthy and diverse ecosystems.

Overview: Overall, the urban forest – both native and introduced – has declined over time, and only 18% of Victoria is currently well or heavily treed. ... Given the city's commitment to accommodating a significant amount of regional population growth, Victoria will continually be challenged with developing in a way that meets development goals, maintains ecological health and fosters an appreciation of local ecosystems and processes.

- In an effort to optimize the protection and restoration of the natural environment, the plan takes a comprehensive approach and integrates the environment into land use and other planning initiatives at a variety of scales. A range of approaches, such as regulations, practices, partnerships and other tools, support the protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas and other habitat. ... The plan policies support the enhancement of the urban forest, with a view to optimizing its many ecological and community benefits, such as green infrastructure, climate change adaptation and placemaking. The plan also aims to mitigate air, noise and light pollution where possible and within the City's capacity to act.

10 (a) (Objectives)

- b) That a range of tools and partnerships support the connection, protection and restoration of ecologically sensitive areas and other habitat.
- d) That the urban forest is enhanced to support a wide range of ecological and community benefits.
- e) That citizens develop an ethic of environmental stewardship and responsibility.
- 10.1 Work with the Capital Regional District, senior levels of government and other partners to implement regional plans and initiatives that manage

Victoria's sensitive ecosystems, urban forest, species at risk and watersheds as parts of a greater regional ecosystem.

- 10.2 Develop and maintain policies that strategically connect, protect and restore the ecological function of sensitive and remnant ecosystems on public and private lands ... by:
 - 10.2.3 Supporting the conservation efforts of senior governments, public agencies, organizations, landowners and other partners
 - 10.2.4 Consider designating Development Permit Areas for the purpose of environmental protection; and,
 - 10.2.5 Where appropriate, entering into conservation covenants or providing incentives to protect ... terrestrial environmentally sensitive areas.
- 10.3 Work collaboratively with senior levels of government, community organizations educational institutions, the private sector and individuals to protect and restore habitat and ecosystems that support migratory species, and rare and endangered species.
- 10.4 Work with senior levels of government, community organizations, and the broader community to enhance the control of invasive species and management of urban wildlife.
- 10.5 Enhance the adaptive capacity ecosystems and the urban forest to withstand climate change impacts through increasing the use and diversity of native and climate change adapted species on both public and private lands.
- 10.6 Seek opportunities to enhance and restore terrestrial ... habitat, enhance the urban forest, and showcase green infrastructure along (designated) greenways.
- 10.7 Develop and maintain a comprehensive Natural Assets Inventory in partnership with other agencies and institutions to:
 - 10.7.1 Monitor ecological function, status and trends;
 - 10.7.2 Provide a basis for the valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services; and,
 - 10.7.3 Provide information to support broader planning, management and conservation initiatives.
- 10.8 Explore the development of a bylaw to regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements, as appropriate, in relation to the removal and deposition of soil within the city.
- 10.15 Work with ... community organizations and residents to address issues related to air, noise and light pollution ...
- 10.17 ... encouraging low emission transportation options, increasing urban forest, and coordinating land use and transportation planning.
- 10.19 Promote community stewardship programs that protect, enhance and restore ecological health.
- 10.20 Support the education efforts of senior government, organizations and others to increase awareness and understanding of ecological features and processes

- 10.21 Incorporate opportunities to interpret local ecosystems and ecological processes through urban design, infrastructure, development and public realm improvements.
- 10.22.1 Promote household practices and skills such as water conservation, food production, native landscaping, recycling and composting; and,
- 10.22.2 Increase the critical understanding of sustainability issues and processes.
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Section 17 – Food Systems

Goals

- 17 (A) A healthy share of the food that supplies Victoria’s daily needs is sustainably grown, processed and packaged in the city, in surrounding agricultural areas, and on Vancouver Island.
- 17 (B) Victorians have access to skills, knowledge and resources to produce and process their own food in urban areas.

The policies in this plan aim to encourage food production where safe and suitable, to forge links to regional agriculture, and optimize the many recreational, health, civic and local economic benefits that flow from a stronger local food system.

Within Victoria, many households with access to land grow a portion of their own food. At the same time, the demand for allotment gardens exceeds supply due to the high number of people renting or living in multi-unit buildings who lack access to land.

Objective

- 17 (b) That the opportunity for urban food production is increased on private and public lands.
- 17.3 Assess neighbourhood food system features and needs as part of local area planning.
- 17.4 Review and develop City policy to increase the number of allotment gardens, commons gardens, edible landscapes, food-bearing trees and other types of food production activities that considers other uses and identifies:
 - 17.4.1 The land types and potential City-held sites where different food production activities might be supported;
 - 17.4.2 The roles and responsibilities of participants;
 - 17.4.3 Mechanisms to encourage and support food production sites on City-held lands, other publicly-held lands, and on private lands; and,
 - 17.4.4 Mechanisms to acquire land for food production purposes, where appropriate.
- 17.5 Encourage food production activities in visible and suitable public places to foster a connection between people and the process of growing, harvesting and eating fresh produce. [see also section 9 – parks and recreation]

- 17.6 Include urban food production objectives in the development of management strategies to address pests, disease, invasive species, urban wildlife and other ecological issues on public and private lands.
- 17.7 Support the establishment of at least one allotment garden per neighbourhood, co-located with community facilities or services where possible, and more in neighbourhoods that feature a high proportion of rental or attached housing, where feasible.
- 17.8 Work with community groups to develop pilot projects for the planting, maintenance and harvesting of food-bearing trees on suitable City-held lands.
- 17.9 Consider new and innovative approaches to urban food production that increase food security, in partnership with citizens, community groups and other stakeholders.

Food Production on PRIVATE Land

- 17.10 Support food production on private land where it is safe, suitable and compatible with the Urban Place Guidelines in this plan.
- 17.11 Encourage the provision of gardens and other food production spaces for the use of residents in new multi-unit housing.
- 17.12 Develop voluntary guidelines for food production in multi-unit, mixed use developments and other types of housing, to support a range of on-site food production activities such as edible landscaping, rooftop gardens and food-bearing trees.
- 17.13 Support the keeping of small livestock in the city by:
 - 17.13.1 Maintaining regulatory support for the keeping of poultry and honeybees; and,
 - 17.13.2 Reviewing regulations to consider the keeping of other small livestock for food production, appropriate to an urban environment, in collaboration with senior levels of government and the health authority.
- 17.14 Explore expanded small-scale commercial urban agriculture through a review of policy and regulations to consider the opportunities for, and implications of:
 - 17.14.1 Enabling infrastructure and human resources needed to support small-scale commercial urban agriculture as a home occupation;
 - 17.14.2 Using residential accessory buildings for commercial agricultural purposes;
- 17.18 Pilot new uses in appropriate locations that enhance urban food production, processing and food waste recycling.
- 17.21 Encourage schools, community and seniors centres to incorporate features such as food gardens and community composting depots that facilitate the development of food-related skills and knowledge.

Rockland Neighbourhood Directions

21.23 Vision in the citywide context includes:

- 21.23.1 Primarily a historic residential neighbourhood with ground oriented housing.
- 21.23.2 An area of notable historic architectural and landscape character.
- 21.23.4 Location of city wide cultural facilities in the Victoria Art Gallery, Craigdarroch Castle and Government House.
- 21.23.6 Significant portion of the city's urban forest, largely on private land.

21.24 Strategic directions include:

- 21.24.4 Continue to conserve the historic architectural and landscape character of the neighbourhood.
- 21.24.5 Enhance connections to Urban Villages in Fairfield, Gonzales, and Jubilee.
- 21.24.6 Support the maintenance of existing dwellings and large lot character through sensitive infill that preserves green space and estate features.
- 21.24.7 Support greenway connection and opportunities for new parkland.