

Mount Pleasant Community Planning Process



A new Community Plan for Mount Pleasant will be developed with the people who live, work, and volunteer in the community. The plan will describe what the community should be like in the future: it will identify what is valuable and should be retained, as well as what and how things should change.

There will be many opportunities to participate: attending a community workshop to discuss issues and come up with solutions; volunteering for the Community Liaison Group; filling-out feedback surveys; or simply reading newsletters delivered to your home.

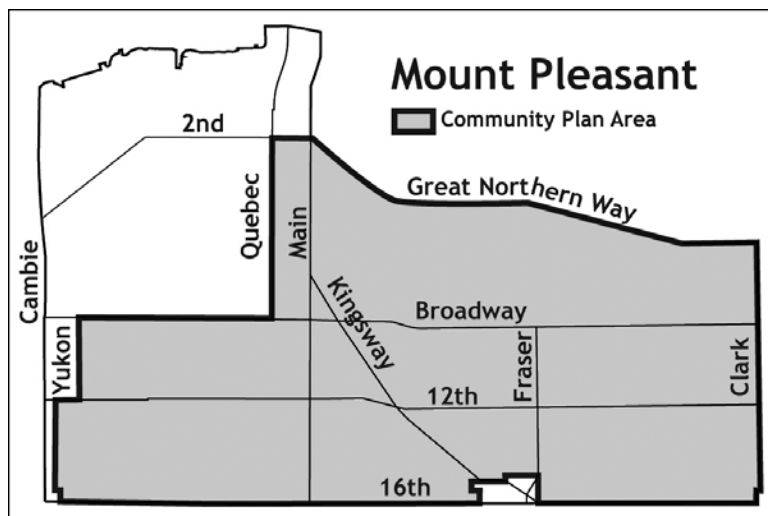
Opportunities to participate will also be provided for people from several language and cultural groups, and for those who are difficult to engage.

Mount Pleasant Community Plan Study Area

The Mount Pleasant local area is bounded by Cambie Street to the west, 16th to the south, Clark to the east, and Great Northern Way/False Creek to the north. The Community Plan study area is shown on Map 1.

Land use policy and urban design in the remainder of the Mount Pleasant local area is, or will be, addressed through other initiatives:

- **South East False Creek:** the Olympic Athletes Village and the other lands north of 2nd will be guided by the recently adopted Official Development Plan;



- **Cambie Street:** Public realm improvements along Cambie within Mount Pleasant will be constructed as part of the completion of the Canada Line project. Additional planning for the Cambie commercial frontage, will be incorporated in future planning (e.g. Metro Core Jobs and Economy Study and Fairview Community Planning);

- **Mount Pleasant Industrial Area:** Future land use of this area, generally bounded by Quebec, Broadway, Yukon and 2nd, will be addressed in the Metro Core Jobs and Economy Study; and

- **Kingsway and Fraser:** The small commercial node at Kingsway and Fraser will be combined with the larger commercial area on Kingsway and Fraser to the south of 16th in a future Neighbourhood Centre Planning program.

Why Mount Pleasant?

Mount Pleasant is one of Vancouver's oldest and most

diverse communities, with several distinct neighbourhoods and shopping areas. It has a large stock of more affordable rental housing. There is a strong arts community and residents' group (Mount Pleasant CARES); active Aboriginal and youth groups; and a vigorous Neighbourhood House, Community Centre Association, Business Improvement Association, and Community Policing Centre (office located in Collingwood).

Mount Pleasant also has major streets with high traffic volumes, and development pressures affecting its shopping and residential areas. Pockets of the community are also confronting a range of pressing social issues, including a growing population of homeless persons. By drawing on the community's history and diversity, the Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (MPCPP) will offer many opportunities for positive, sustainable change.

Content of the Plan

Over the next 20 months, the MPCPP will deliver updated plans for your shopping areas and residential neighbourhoods, action plans for pressing social concerns, and policies to address community-wide issues and opportunities. Topics will include: safety, sustainability, traffic, housing, parks, public places, character, and heritage.

An integral part of the proposed process is a 'social component' which will proactively address some of the pressing social issues faced by the community. The intent is to engage the community not only in identifying specific problems and developing short term actions to deal with them, but also in developing longer term strategies to address social issues in the latter stages of the planning program.

Mount Pleasant Community Planning Process

Step 1 - Start-up and Getting in Touch March 2007 - December 2007

City staff spread the word about the planning process and invited people to identify community priorities. A newsletter was sent out to all households and businesses in the community. The Mount Pleasant Community Liaison Group (or CLG) was formed to provide advice to City staff on the planning process. Two Community Plan Fairs were held: June 2nd at Mount Pleasant Elementary School (part of the 'Celebrate Mount Pleasant' Festival), and June 10th at Mount Pleasant Community Centre.

Step 2 - Sub-Area and Community Action Plans January 2008 – December 2008

A series of community workshops and events will be held to look first at how to make the community's

shopping areas more vibrant and attractive (beginning in April 2008), and then consider how to enhance Mount Pleasant's residential neighbourhoods (beginning in October 2008). Workshops provide opportunities for interested people from the community to work creatively with City staff and consultants to develop possible improvements for the community.

Step 2 will also identify key community social issues and have staff work with community organizations, government agencies, and community members to resolve them. A volunteer Social Coordinating Group (SCG) was formed on March 4, 2008, to begin to implement a Community Action Agenda (or CAA). The CAA was approved by City Council on February 14, 2008, and outlines four key social issues to be addressed by the SCG. These social issues were identified by the broader Mount Pleasant community in 2007, during the initial outreach stage outlined in Step 1 of the overall planning process described above. The key social issues are:

1. Support for the Vulnerable,
2. Safety and Security,
3. Open Drug, Alcohol and Sex Trade, and
4. Homelessness

The SCG is meeting monthly and membership is open to the general public, community organizations, and government service providers. A series of open houses and events will be held to get a broader response to proposals generated in this step.

Step 3 - Set Community-wide Directions January 2009 – May 2009

This step focuses on issues and opportunities which affect all of Mount Pleasant (e.g. arterial street traffic, housing affordability, safety and services, and sustainability).

Newsletters, open houses, and other approaches will keep the community informed.

Step 4 - Completing the Community Plan June 2009 – December 2009

All of the pieces developed in Steps 1 – 3 will be brought together in a draft Community Plan. A newsletter will be sent out and community meetings will be held. Community preferences will be identified. The draft Community Plan will go to City Council for approval.

Emerging Initiatives/Programs Relevant to Mount Pleasant

There are many significant City initiatives/programs (please see related fact sheets) which will be unfolding while the Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program is underway:

- EcoDensity
- Rental Housing Study
- Homeless Action Plan
- Supportive Housing Strategy
- The Social Development Plan
- Project Civil City
- UBC Millenium Line Extension
- Metro Jobs and Economy Study
- Vancouver Heritage Register Upgrade
- False Creek Flats Land Use Study
- Vancouver Cultural Plan

Staff will monitor these initiatives and integrate their work within the Mount Pleasant planning process, including the possibility of doing local 'pilots' and/or projects within Mount Pleasant where applicable. This will also involve providing notice of opportunities for Mount Pleasant residents to provide input into these initiatives/programs.