

Transcript from Residential Area Workshop #2 Parks and Open Space - October 21, 2009



The following document is a collection of transcripts of comments made by community participants at the second residential area workshop held on October 21, 2009. The workshop forms part of the Mount Pleasant Community Planning Program (www.vancouver.ca/mountpleasant). The collections of transcripts cover discussions about four residential areas (North, South, Central, and West) in Mount Pleasant ([see Map](#)).

How the Transcripts were recorded

Over 30 people attended Residential Area Workshop #2. Participants divided themselves into four groups according to the residential area in Mount Pleasant they wished to discuss. The workshop started with participants reviewing issues/goals that had been identified in previous community meetings/workshops and adding those not already listed. Participants then placed a GREEN dot on the issues/goals that they wanted to discuss, added comments on the appropriateness/adequacy of existing City policy and why. Next participants prioritized which issues/goals that were not being adequately addressed by placing a RED dot next a comment or policy statement. Participants then suggested possible changes or refinements to existing City policy, including possible new policy, to address their key issues/goals. Finally, each group reported out on their key issues and policy discussions to the larger group.

Understanding the Transcripts

There are three columns outlined on the workshop poster: **Issues/Goals** lists comments previously identified by Community Fair and workshop participants and are written in "normal" type; the second column contains existing **City Policy**; and the third column contains **Comments** received from participants at the RAW #2 workshop and are written in "*italic*" type.

The dots at the end of certain comments indicate the number of workshop participants who felt that the comment should be prioritized for discussion to explore any possible policy changes, additions or development.

West Area

Task #1

Issues/Goals for Parks and Open Space, and City Policy

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Parks</p> <p>Mount Pleasant is park deficient: get park space up to a reasonable level (1 green dot)</p> <p>Keep green space as area densifies</p> <p>Buy corner lots for pocket parks (e.g., 15th and St. Catherine's)</p> <p>Add more parks, green space and trees, and playing fields (e.g., soccer fields and softball diamond)</p> <p>Need facilities (green space, parks, pocket parks) people can walk to (1 green dot)</p> <p>Build a skateboard park at Jonathan Rogers Park</p> <p>Provide more benches, tables, drinking fountains, and shaded areas in parks.</p> <p>Keep better maintenance of parks and park facilities (washrooms); keep clean and attractive</p> <p>Keep alcohol and drugs out of Guelph Park and the area around Kingsgate Mall (Broadway and Prince Edward) (1 green dot)</p>	<p>Park acquisition: The Vancouver Park Board (VPB) seeks to provide a standard of 1.1 hectares (2.75 acres) per 1,000 residents (roughly the size of a typical city block for every 1,000 residents).</p> <p>Park facilities and development: The VPB seeks to redevelop substandard parks, respond to expressed demand by adding new services (e.g. bicycle routes), be receptive to unique proposals for facilities and environments, accommodate the arts, and respond to cultural diversity</p> <p>Park maintenance: maintain the existing VPB assets (more than 200 parks and 200 buildings) in good order (e.g. repairing or replacing worn out features), while supporting the Park Board's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Park safety: The VPB regularly reviews safety issues in parks and park facilities, and public perceptions of unsafe conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Full-sized parks as well as pocket parks, if financially viable.</i> • <i>Need an outdoor living room – escape the downtown.</i> • <i>Long-term Mount Pleasant will become more dense – space must be left for parks in the development.</i> • <i>Concerns about the loss of False Creek open water with development.</i> • <i>Might be a greater need for parks given the age structure. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Connection to SE False Creek open space needed. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>An expensive suggestion – bury Main/Kingsway so traffic runs underground between 6th and Broadway. Creates pedestrian space in front of the new community centre.</i> • <i>View from park is great, Jonathan Rogers Park is underutilized.</i> • <i>Centralized facility may lose easy accessibility.</i> • <i>Be aware of demographics (or changing demographics).</i> • <i>Suspect that more kids/families in our area.</i> • <i>Take care of what we have before obtaining public space. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>More cultural and social</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Make parks more handicapped accessible.</p> <p>If can't keep existing community centre, turn it into a community garden and green space</p> <p>Encourage Sunday arts and crafts fair on Robson Park</p> <p>Bring artist-in-residence to Major Matthews Park to change up space (e.g., community gardens, recycling facilities, etc.)</p> <p>More dog parks vs. make people parks a priority over dog parks</p>	<p>Park accessibility: The VPB seeks to provide high quality, accessible recreation and leisure opportunities for all its residents</p> <p>Mount Pleasant Community Centre: The existing community centre is being replaced by a new community centre at #1 Kingsway (opening in November, 2009). The closure of the old centre will mean programs and services currently provided there will soon be delivered at the new location. However, the Board has yet to make final decisions about the future of the old building's site, and the way in which it may be re-greened.</p> <p>Dog parks: the VPB identifies three designations with regard to dogs in parks: areas where dogs are prohibited; areas where dogs are allowed as long as they are leashed; and areas where dogs are allowed off-leash. Responsible dog ownership behaviour is required in parks (including the licensing of dogs, leashing of dogs in public places, and picking up dog excrement in public places).</p>	<p><i>activities at Jonathan Rogers Park. (2 green dots)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concerts, movies, events - chance to meet people.</i> • <i>Mount Pleasant community BQ!</i> • <i>How can we locate people if they have a medical emergency in a park?</i> • <i>Farmers market.</i> • <i>New community centre is in a pedestrian-unfriendly area (trafficky, urban-industrial); need to make safe and inviting / walkable for people (including youth, families at night, etc.) (2 green dots)</i> • <i>Hard to cross Main Street and Kingsway to access.</i> • <i>Keep it as a public space – recognize that this part of MP is very much in deficit.</i> • <i>Dogs vs. playing field is an issue at Jonathan Rogers. What's the policy when the two activities conflict? (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Conflict between small kids and dogs.</i>

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<p>Playgrounds</p> <p>Make better use of school playgrounds</p> <p>Provide more playgrounds for small children</p> <p>Provide more swings at New South China Park for toddlers and older kids</p> <p>Put playgrounds in City Hall grounds for families (1 green dot)</p>	<p>School playgrounds: After the needs of K-12 and other Vancouver School Board (VSB) initiatives are met, the VSB supports the use of district assets for non-school purposes, including non-profit community and commercial uses. A creative/adventure play area can be provided or upgraded, if requested at the local level, and developed in such a way as to meet safety standards, and minimize restrictions on the remaining playground areas.</p>	
<p>Community Gardens</p> <p>Provide more community gardens (e.g., at schools and parks)</p> <p>Establish community gardens in appropriate locations – other than busy intersections</p> <p>Promote idea of Victory Garden or Grow a Row , Share a Row in Mt. Pleasant as an example of agricultural urban food share</p> <p>Encourage urban agriculture for food production</p> <p>Keep making street and community garden plots available</p> <p>Create more ‘vertical’ gardens especially in laneways for higher food production</p> <p>Let’s make better use of City Hall park by building community gardens or hosting concerts and events (5 green dots)</p>	<p>Community gardens: the VPB, VSB, and the City of Vancouver (CoV) collaborate with interested groups in developing community gardens and establishing locally-initiated garden plots on School Board, Park Board, and City-owned property.</p> <p>Urban Agriculture: Among other objectives in the Vancouver Food Charter, the CoV seeks to encourage consumers to purchase more locally produced food, have food retailers shift more of their inventory to local and sustainably produced food; and increase levels of “edible gardening” in the City of Vancouver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Create a community garden in south east corner 12th and Cambie (e.g. Davie and Burrard) - temporary use allowed by property owner (with tax relief) (2 green dots)</i> • <i>What other sites (e.g. 300 block E. Broadway)</i> • <i>Address “inevitability” of City Hall greenspace – many residents don’t live there / usable (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Can we add a playground? No alternative.</i>

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<p>More food security programs that include gardening and growing your own</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Events can happen here like in David Lam Park (Davie & Pacific)</i> • <i>Need to be welcoming and be more accessible.</i> • <i>Park Board should have jurisdiction – publicity, short of space.</i>
<p>Planting</p> <p>Plant more native species because they consume less water</p> <p>Implement naturalization projects in existing and new parks</p> <p>Provide more trees and greening along streets</p> <p>Provide more planting around intersections for residents to care for</p> <p>Use fruit trees as street trees in some selected areas (1 green dot)</p>	<p>Planting in parks and open space: there are over 200 parks and a variety of programs that encourage residents to garden on City-owned property outside of parks. Planting in parks and other open space will be informed by the City's 'Greenest City' Initiative, which supports efforts to protect nature and greenspace, specifically encouraging landscaping with native plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Do they just blossom?</i> • <i>But they make a mess so put into parks FIRST.</i> • <i>Explore an approach to get more fruit trees planted in Vancouver.</i> • <i>Educate people on growing /harvesting fruit trees.</i> • <i>Pruning needed, organic soil, space for it, needs looking after.</i>
<p>Public Gathering Places</p> <p>Create more public gathering space</p> <p>Create one central neighbourhood square (1 green dot)</p> <p>Create more space for live music, street banners, potted plants and hanging baskets (1 green dot)</p>	<p>Community gathering places: the CoV seeks to provide significant community gathering places strategically located and designed in each neighbourhood. Such places may vary in form or type by neighbourhood as defined through neighbourhood consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>City Hall Park – but size is an issue.</i> • <i>What about the surface parking at City Hall?</i> • <i>Close 10th Avenue – demolish East Wing</i>

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<p>Create open space at Mt. Pleasant Elementary (closed from Fraser St.) and turn area into special gathering place with hard and soft landscaping (e.g., like a plaza)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Green space.</i>
<p>Pool</p> <p>Keep Mt. Pleasant pool, convert it to an indoor pool – provide more swimming lessons and accessible facilities</p> <p>Provide outdoor pool to serve all ages</p> <p>Build another pool; bonus to developer who provides funds or builds a pool</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Pool: the VPB's Aquatic Services Strategy Plan (2002) calls for the removal of the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool, to be replaced by the new destination pool at Hillcrest Park – one kilometer away. As of August, 2009, the Park Board has already committed to undertake a public consultation process to gather feedback from the community regarding what to do with the old pool and community centre itself.</p>	
<p>Streams</p> <p>Daylight Brewery Creek or other neighbourhood streams <i>(1 green dot)</i></p>	<p>Daylighting streams: the City's Engineering and Park Board Departments support the enhancement and daylighting of streams. However, recognizing that we live in a dense urban environment, daylighted streams will not function as they had originally done before development.</p>	
<p>Country Lanes <i>(1 green dot)</i></p> <p>Encourage country lanes, green back lanes, lots of greenery and gardens <i>(1 green dot)</i></p> <p>Provide more Country Lanes</p>	<p>Country Lanes: reduce the amount of surface water entering the storm/sewer system. The "Country Lane" alternative provides the functionality of an improved surface for vehicles yet maintains the ambiance of country living through the use of pavers, grass and other landscaped features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is this schedule?</i> • <i>History – public art, sculptures etc.</i>

Central Area

Task #1

Issues/Goals for Parks and Open Space, and City Policy

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<p>Parks</p> <p>Mount Pleasant is park deficient: get park space up to a reasonable level</p> <p>Keep green space as area densifies</p> <p>Buy corner lots for pocket parks (e.g., 15th and St. Catherine's) 12th and Sophia "STELLA" building</p> <p>Add more parks, green space and trees, and playing fields (e.g., soccer fields and softball diamond)</p> <p>Need facilities (green space, parks, pocket parks) people can walk to</p> <p>Build a skateboard park at Jonathan Rogers Park</p> <p>Provide more benches, tables, drinking fountains, and shaded areas in parks.</p> <p>Keep better maintenance of parks and park facilities (washrooms); keep clean and attractive</p> <p>Keep alcohol and drugs out of Guelph Park and the area around Kingsgate Mall (Broadway and Prince Edward)</p>	<p>Park acquisition: The Vancouver Park Board (VPB) seeks to provide a standard of 1.1 hectares (2.75 acres) per 1,000 residents (roughly the size of a typical city block for every 1,000 residents).</p> <p>Park facilities and development: The VPB seeks to redevelop substandard parks, respond to expressed demand by adding new services (e.g. bicycle routes), be receptive to unique proposals for facilities and environments, accommodate the arts, and respond to cultural diversity</p> <p>Park maintenance: maintain the existing VPB assets (more than 200 parks and 200 buildings) in good order (e.g. repairing or replacing worn out features), while supporting the Park Board's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Park safety: The VPB regularly reviews safety issues in parks and park facilities, and public perceptions of unsafe conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>City owns the streets, create housing on streets.</i> • <i>Reallocate street space to parks.</i> • <i>Streets under-used by cars. Close blocks – people access houses through lanes. Put park benches.</i> • <i>Buy and SELL at a profit, small lots</i> • <i>Using interlocking brick with space for grass growth (this will facilitate fire & emergency vehicles) turn neighbourhood streets into linear parks.</i> • <i>Problem is implementation.</i> • <i>Mandate set backs on new buildings (maybe tax breaks) to create small parks.</i> • <i>City need to stop asking for parking spaces and require greening instead</i> • <i>Keep Jonathan Rogers Park "GREEN"..</i> • <i>Use space on top of buildings.</i> • <i>More trees on main thoroughfares.</i> • <i>Health and safety are principles to consider when planting is considered.</i> • <i>green roofs – especially for older buildings.</i> • <i>Think of boulevards as potential linear parks – benches installation art.</i> • <i>Think shallow and consider plantings for safety.</i>

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<p>Community Gardens</p> <p>Provide more community gardens (e.g., at schools and parks)</p> <p>Establish community gardens in appropriate locations – other than busy intersections</p> <p>Promote idea of Victory Garden or Grow a Row , Share a Row in Mt. Pleasant as an example of agricultural urban food share</p> <p>Encourage urban agriculture for food production</p> <p>Keep making street and community garden plots available</p> <p>Create more ‘vertical’ gardens especially in laneways for higher food production</p> <p>Let’s make better use of City Hall park by building community gardens or hosting concerts and events</p> <p>More food security programs that</p>	<p>Community gardens: the VPB, VSB, and the City of Vancouver (CoV) collaborate with interested groups in developing community gardens and establishing locally-initiated garden plots on School Board, Park Board, and City-owned property.</p> <p>Urban Agriculture: Among other objectives in the Vancouver Food Charter, the CoV seeks to encourage consumers to purchase more locally produced food, have food retailers shift more of their inventory to local and sustainably produced food; and increase levels of “edible gardening” in the City of Vancouver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Personal garden sharing – those with under-used garden space let others use it. It’s already happening in MP could expand.</i> • <i>City teach “How to Manage a Community Garden” workshop.</i> • <i>Manage roundabouts like community gardens with ¼ people there plus picnic table bench.</i> • <i>City too restrictive to options of type of plants.</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
include gardening and growing your own		
<p>Planting</p> <p>Plant more native species because they consume less water</p> <p>Implement naturalization projects in existing and new parks</p> <p>Provide more trees and greening along streets</p> <p>Provide more planting around intersections for residents to care for</p> <p>Use fruit trees as street trees in some selected areas</p>	<p>Planting in parks and open space: there are over 200 parks and a variety of programs that encourage residents to garden on City-owned property outside of parks. Planting in parks and other open space will be informed by the City's 'Greenest City' Initiative, which supports efforts to protect nature and greenspace, specifically encouraging landscaping with native plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>clarify... add streets (roundabouts) ...parking lot (greenhouse planters)</i> • <i>discourage ground level of parking lot.</i> • <i>Plant street trees wherever possible. Create "treed" boulevard on Kingsway.</i> • <i>Personal garden sharing – those with under-used garden space let others use it.</i> • <i>Think safety when planting and landscaping visibility.</i> • <i>More tree planters must be maintained.</i> • <i>Develop residential private-public food production.</i> • <i>Incentives for businesses to invest green street presence.</i> • <i>Every street and sidewalk should be considered a park.</i> • <i>Widen tree holes, make more = more and larger trees on streets.</i> • <i>Rooftop/ greenhouse/planters – producing local veggies.</i> • <i>Green boulevards down middle of Main, Kingsway/Broadway.</i> • <i>Green (plant and trees) between sidewalks and streets.</i> • <i>Have Engineering. fund curbs so trees can be installed.</i>
<p>Public Gathering Places</p> <p>Create more public gathering space</p> <p>Create one central neighbourhood square</p> <p>Create more space for live music, street banners, potted plants and</p>	<p>Community gathering places: the CoV seeks to provide significant community gathering places strategically located and designed in each neighbourhood. Such places may vary in form or type by neighbourhood as defined through neighbourhood consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Place benches on periphery of parks.</i> • <i>More garbage receptacles in proximity to seating!!</i> • <i>Encourage festivals and street parties.</i> • <i>Encourage any activities that get people out on the street.</i>

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<p>hanging baskets</p> <p>Create open space at Mt. Pleasant Elementary (closed from Fraser St.) and turn area into special gathering place with hard and soft landscaping (e.g., like a plaza)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vary pavement types with mosaics!! (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Acoustics for parks if they want Fringe Festival.</i>
<p>Pool</p> <p>Keep Mt. Pleasant pool, convert it to an indoor pool – provide more swimming lessons and accessible facilities</p> <p>Provide outdoor pool to serve all ages</p> <p>Build another pool; bonus to developer who provides funds or builds a pool</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Pool: the VPB's Aquatic Services Strategy Plan (2002) calls for the removal of the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool, to be replaced by the new destination pool at Hillcrest Park – one kilometer away. As of August, 2009, the Park Board has already committed to undertake a public consultation process to gather feedback from the community regarding what to do with the old pool and community centre itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Indoor pool! Keep one in Mount Pleasant</i> • <i>Ozonated pool – not chlorine indoor pool.</i> • <i>A small indoor pool near the west area for seniors/others unable to get to the Riley Park Pool.</i>
<p>Streams</p> <p>Daylight Brewery Creek or other neighbourhood streams</p>	<p>Daylighting streams: the City's Engineering and Park Board Departments support the enhancement and daylighting of streams. However, recognizing that we live in a dense urban environment, daylighted streams will not function as they had originally done before development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Direct some into fountains.</i> • <i>In an innovative way</i> • <i>too negative</i>
<p>Country Lanes</p> <p>Encourage country lanes, green back lanes, lots of greenery and gardens</p> <p>Provide more Country Lanes</p>	<p>Country Lanes: reduce the amount of surface water entering the storm/sewer system. The "Country Lane" alternative provides the functionality of an improved surface for vehicles yet maintains the ambiance of country living through the use of pavers, grass and other landscaped features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vibrantly/artsy/edgy.</i> • <i>Bike route – 10th & Fraser needs a light.</i> • <i>Apply this concept to front streets too - street becomes park.</i> • <i>Remove asphalt and only replace car streets where absolutely necessary.</i> <p><i>Why are there so many streets not lined with trees like other areas? Honda dealership for example – anything to let them see the importance of landscape and greening in public open space and enforcement?</i></p>

North Area

Task #1

Issues/Goals for Parks and Open Space, and City Policy

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Parks</p> <p>Mount Pleasant is park deficient: get park space up to a reasonable level (1 red dot, 1 green dot)</p> <p>Keep green space as area densifies (1 red dot)</p> <p>Buy corner lots for pocket parks (e.g., 15th and St. Catherine's) (1 green dot)</p> <p>Add more parks, green space and trees, and playing fields (e.g., soccer fields and softball diamond)</p> <p>Need facilities (green space, parks, pocket parks) people can walk to (3 green dots)</p> <p>Build a skateboard park at Jonathan Rogers Park</p> <p>Provide more benches, tables, drinking fountains, and shaded areas in parks.</p>	<p>Park acquisition: The Vancouver Park Board (VPB) seeks to provide a standard of 1.1 hectares (2.75 acres) per 1,000 residents (roughly the size of a typical city block for every 1,000 residents). (5 red dots)</p> <p>Park facilities and development: The VPB seeks to redevelop substandard parks, respond to expressed demand by adding new services (e.g. bicycle routes), be receptive to unique proposals for facilities and environments, accommodate the arts, and respond to cultural diversity (5 red dots)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is current Mount Pleasant population?</i> • <i>Why corner lots?</i> • <i>1/3 of MEC building which take a whole block should have been dedicated to park space.</i> • <i>Need kiddies play areas with peak roof glass roofs (on tall steel posts) for dry use of swings/slides etc for those wet Vancouver days (which are 50% of our days). They need to be areas full of activity items so they don't become sleep areas for homeless people. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>Save the green space at Brunswick and E. 2nd Ave. (no subway station there!!) The subway station should be on the Finning Lands as originally planned and presented to the community. We need more of these green spaces. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>No pocket parks – they end up as places for bums to sleep and use as toilets. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>Do not give bonus to developers to provide amenities to parks because when the developer goes so does the promise to provide and maintain the amenity.</i> • <i>Don't make expensive contracts with private owners for toilets and security in parks. These should be Park board controlled. (1 red dot)</i> • <i>Public washroom in Guelph Park. (2 green dots)</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Keep better maintenance of parks and park facilities (washrooms); keep clean and attractive</p> <p>Keep alcohol and drugs out of Guelph Park and the area around Kingsgate Mall (Broadway and Prince Edward) (4 red dots)</p> <p>Make parks more handicapped accessible.</p> <p>If can't keep existing community centre, turn it into a community garden and green space</p> <p>Encourage Sunday arts and crafts fair on Robson Park (1 green dot)</p> <p>Bring artist-in-residence to Major Matthews Park to change up space (e.g., community gardens, recycling facilities, etc.)</p>	<p>Park maintenance: maintain the existing VPB assets (more than 200 parks and 200 buildings) in good order (e.g. repairing or replacing worn out features), while supporting the Park Board's Strategic Plan. (4 red dots)</p> <p>Park safety: The VPB regularly reviews safety issues in parks and park facilities, and public perceptions of unsafe conditions. (5 red dots)</p> <p>Park accessibility: The VPB seeks to provide high quality, accessible recreation and leisure opportunities for all its residents (3 red dots)</p> <p>Mount Pleasant Community Centre: The existing community centre is being replaced by a new community centre at #1 Kingsway (opening in November, 2009). The closure of the old centre will mean programs and services currently provided there will soon be delivered at the new location. However, the Board has yet to make final decisions about the future of the old building's site, and the way in which it may be re-greened. (1 red dot)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The mini-park that descends from the foot of Fraser Street to Great Northern Way could be much improved. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>More programmes in parks; outreach to drug users. Police, presence hasn't worked. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>North China Creek Park – all weather track (bark mulch gets soggy in rain season) needed.</i> • <i>N. China Creek Park – use history of China Creek velodrome to give “focus” to park, using historical interpretation panels and sculpture, partners with others such as VCC, integrate with Central Valley Greenway. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Improve track in China Creek North Park (it gets very muddy and has lots of puddles when it rains, which it does most of the time.</i> • <i>Park accessibility – pathway (stone or ?) from top of west-side of Cedar Creek N. to Skytrain Station. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Carolina Park: and the passageway to the east of St. Francis Xavier – request for good STEPS (even when icy) and LIGHTING and SIGNAGE notifying pedestrians that they may walk up to 5th from GN Way.</i> • <i>Add a caretaker/cottage washrooms – seek partnerships to improve park facilities e.g. VCC.</i> • <i>Public washrooms should be built/integrated in large parks / developments.</i> • <i>Add tall hedge (pruned) to reduce pollution from GNW; improves look and feel. Improve lighting to increase park use and safety.</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>More dog parks vs. make people parks a priority over dog parks (1 red dot and 1 green dot)</p>	<p>Dog parks: the VPB identifies three designations with regard to dogs in parks: areas where dogs are prohibited; areas where dogs are allowed as long as they are leashed; and areas where dogs are allowed off-leash. Responsible dog ownership behaviour is required in parks (including the licensing of dogs, leashing of dogs in public places, and picking up dog excrement in public places). (2 red dots)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Encourage arts and craft fair in Guelph Park too</i> • <i>Dog park policy is not something in effect here!! There's tons of dogs, tons off-leash, lots of dog crap on ground; lots of big dogs now (including pit bulls); There is no fenced fated dog park!! They are needed throughout Vancouver! Unfortunately Mount Pleasant has too few parks already!</i> • <i>outdoor recreation want some pleasant dog-free parks and want enforcement of dog by-laws.</i> • <i>only consider licenses dog numbers where considering where dogs can be – currently 800 registered dogs.</i> • <i>Any dog parks in this park limited area should have fencing and gates (but attractive wrought and iron designs that augment the community. (1 green dot)</i> • <i>Off-leash park; have 2 dogs and foster rescue dogs.</i> • <i>Better/more park programming to address recreation and social issues (including dogs).</i> • <i>Add dog park to Guelph to increase safety and change park use (e.g. homeless).</i>
<p>Playgrounds</p> <p>Make better use of school playgrounds</p> <p>Provide more playgrounds for small children</p> <p>Provide more swings at New South</p>	<p>School playgrounds: After the needs of K-12 and other Vancouver School Board (VSB) initiatives are met, the VSB supports the use of district assets for non-school purposes, including non-profit community and commercial uses. A creative/adventure play area can be provided or upgraded, if requested at</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Also public washrooms (not just port-a-potties) near tennis courts, playgrounds (3 green dots)</i> • <i>Need washroom access, including baby-friendly space (change-table) Open school?</i> • <i>“Safety standards” – human waste management.</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>China Park for toddlers and older kids</p> <p>Put playgrounds in City Hall grounds for families</p>	<p>the local level, and developed in such a way as to meet safety standards, and minimize restrictions on the remaining playground areas. (2 red dots)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Guelph Park alcohol consumption problem continues on!! This needs to be addressed by policing and more active uses of park (e.g. blading pathway around circumference/ kiddies play areas, basketball hoops, etc.)</i> • <i>Need a mini-micro skate park on the Finning Lands!! Like at Strathcona Park but with a 4 foot high half-pipe (short/designed for beginners and little kids...not extreme teens like Hastings Park)</i>
<p>Community Gardens</p> <p>Provide more community gardens (e.g., at schools and parks) (4 green dots)</p> <p>Establish community gardens in appropriate locations – other than busy intersections</p> <p>Promote idea of Victory Garden or Grow a Row , Share a Row in Mt. Pleasant as an example of agricultural urban food share</p> <p>Encourage urban agriculture for food production (1 green dots)</p> <p>Keep making street and community garden plots available</p> <p>Create more ‘vertical’ gardens especially in laneways for higher food production</p> <p>Let’s make better use of City Hall park by building community gardens or hosting concerts and events (1 red dots)</p> <p>More food security programs that include gardening and growing your own (3 green dots)</p>	<p>Community gardens: the VPB, VSB, and the City of Vancouver (CoV) collaborate with interested groups in developing community gardens and establishing locally-initiated garden plots on School Board, Park Board, and City-owned property. (2 red dots)</p> <p>Urban Agriculture: Among other objectives in the Vancouver Food Charter, the CoV seeks to encourage consumers to purchase more locally produced food, have food retailers shift more of their inventory to local and sustainably produced food; and increase levels of “edible gardening” in the City of Vancouver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i><u>Not</u> in parks - allow “space for wild things” (natural, non-manicured growth)</i> • <i>North China Creek Park – community gardens perhaps adjacent to “Means of Production Youth Gardens.</i> • <i>Native plants only for community gardens other than the veggie/fruit plots; native plants need less maintenance and will grow better here.</i> • <i>Close a street and make it a Grow a Row community garden. (4 green dots)</i> • <i>Encourage bike use by putting garden plots where on-street parking exists on bike routes. (2 green dots)</i> • <i>More “street closures” vs. purchasing land.</i> • <i>Good idea!!</i> • <i>Better balance between street gardens and emergency vehicles e.g. short-cutting “poppy posts”.</i> • <i>Before creating street closures notify (survey) resident...10 block radius.</i> • <i>Encourage roof top gardens in new developments.</i> • <i>Hold free public gardening</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
		<i>workshops in parks.</i>
<p>Planting</p> <p>Plant more native species because they consume less water (3 green dots, 4 red dots)</p> <p>Implement naturalization projects in existing and new parks</p> <p>Provide more trees and greening along streets (1 green dot)</p> <p>Provide more planting around intersections for residents to care for</p> <p>Use fruit trees as street trees in some selected areas (2 green dots)</p>	<p>Planting in parks and open space: there are over 200 parks and a variety of programs that encourage residents to garden on City-owned property outside of parks. Planting in parks and other open space will be informed by the City's 'Greenest City' Initiative, which supports efforts to protect nature and greenspace, specifically encouraging landscaping with native plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Main St, north of 6th, 2nd and 1st Ave., should become more green as the area develops (ex. street trees) but for now it would help to at least cut back or remove shrubs and plants that are overgrowing to sidewalk. They look messy, are blocking the sidewalk and are especially awkward to navigate around when they are wet from the rain. They are also providing shelter for rats.</i> • <i>Good idea!!</i> • <i>Allow planting/fence beyond "property line" right out to the sidewalk.</i> • <i>Use storm water management plants - swales and naturally filtering species.</i>
<p>Public Gathering Places (1 green dot)</p> <p>Create more public gathering space</p> <p>Create one central neighbourhood square</p> <p>Create more space for live music, street banners, potted plants and hanging baskets (3 green dots)</p> <p>Create open space at Mt. Pleasant Elementary (closed from Fraser St.) and turn area into special gathering place with hard and soft landscaping (e.g., like a plaza) (1 green dot)</p>	<p>Community gathering places: the CoV seeks to provide significant community gathering places strategically located and designed in each neighbourhood. Such places may vary in form or type by neighbourhood as defined through neighbourhood consultation. (4 red dots)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Need shelter for space: house electrical, lighting, other supplies, washrooms.</i> • <i>Mini amphitheatre – maybe at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre</i> • <i>Do you mean "closed" to Guelph Street or do you mean Sahalli Park?</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Pool <i>(2 green dots)</i></p> <p>Keep Mt. Pleasant pool, convert it to an indoor pool – provide more swimming lessons and accessible facilities</p> <p>Provide outdoor pool to serve all ages</p> <p>Build another pool; bonus to developer who provides funds or builds a pool</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Pool: the VPB's Aquatic Services Strategy Plan (2002) calls for the removal of the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool, to be replaced by the new destination pool at Hillcrest Park – one kilometer away. As of August, 2009, the Park Board has already committed to undertake a public consultation process to gather feedback from the community regarding what to do with the old pool and community centre itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hillcrest Park – what street corner is this? • North Mount Pleasant has no pool. (4 green dots) • If South Mount Pleasant gets to keep its outdoor pool (as well as the new major aquatic centre), then North Mount Pleasant will never get a pool, even with a much denser population. (5 red dots)
<p>Streams</p> <p>Daylight Brewery Creek or other neighbourhood streams. <i>(4 green dots)</i></p>	<p>Daylighting streams: the City's Engineering and Park Board Departments support the enhancement and daylighting of streams. However, recognizing that we live in a dense urban environment, daylighted streams will not function as they had originally done before development. (3 red dots)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streams - Daylight Brewery Creek should not be just artistically daylighted but should show the water of the stream, for birds and wildlife in the area. • Daylight St. George Creek is an excellent way to vitalize the neighbourhood and connect the Great Northern Way campus to Kingsway. Creek along St. George St. would be good – share with bike route; school use open that up! (6 green dots) • It's not clear to me what the process is toward creek daylighting. Maybe a public forum on the topic. This needs more attention and support in order to make the daylighting happen. (6 red dots)
<p>Country Lanes</p> <p>Encourage country lanes, green back lanes, lots of greenery and gardens, (4 green dots, 4 red dots)</p> <p>Provide more Country Lanes</p>	<p>Country Lanes: reduce the amount of surface water entering the storm/sewer system. The "Country Lane" alternative provides the functionality of an improved surface for vehicles yet maintains the ambiance of country living through the use of pavers, grass and other landscaped features. (1 red dot)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes! (1 green dot) • Can then host community lane events. • No country lanes – this encourages more bums to come into our backyards and use our lanes as toilets. It is too expensive for the property owners as taxes are already too high. People use the lanes for delivery. People use the lanes for garbage trucks. (2 green dots)

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
		<p>dots, 3 red dots)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make greenways and bike routes more green and interesting (i.e. 10th Ave and 6th Ave) – plantings, public art, Ontario, Mid-town, Ridgeway, 37th Ave good examples</i>

North

Task #2

What Should We Be Doing Differently?

Which issues/goals have not been adequately addressed?	Alternative approaches	Comments (what, why, where, how?)
Streams (1 red dot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Seek grant monies form partners (wildlife and privacy).</i> • <i>Review storm water system to locate most reasonable stream potential.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expensive look at other streams to see how they were developed.</i>
Park acquisition, safety, maintenance, facilities and development (1 red dot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Achieve equity to address maintenance/safety.</i> • <i>Have a broader view of M.P. and large parks adjacent e.g. flats.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>7th and Main “Quebec connection” use City land to achieve park standards.</i>
Country lanes (1 red dot)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Wet lands in the flats.</i> 	

South Area

Task #1

Issues/Goals for Parks and Open Space, and City Policy

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Parks <i>(5 green dots)</i></p> <p>Mount Pleasant is park deficient: get park space up to a reasonable level</p> <p>Keep green space as area densifies</p> <p>Buy corner lots for pocket parks (e.g., 15th and St. Catherine's)</p> <p>Add more parks, green space and trees, and playing fields (e.g., soccer fields and softball diamond)</p> <p>Need facilities (green space, parks, pocket parks) people can walk to</p> <p>Build a skateboard park at Jonathan Rogers Park</p> <p>Provide more benches, tables, drinking fountains, and shaded areas in parks.</p> <p>Keep better maintenance of parks and park facilities (washrooms); keep clean and attractive</p> <p>Keep alcohol and drugs out of Guelph Park and the area around Kingsgate Mall (Broadway and Prince Edward)</p> <p>Make parks more handicapped accessible.</p>	<p>Park acquisition: The Vancouver Park Board (VPB) seeks to provide a standard of 1.1 hectares (2.75 acres) per 1,000 residents (roughly the size of a typical city block for every 1,000 residents).</p> <p>Park facilities and development: The VPB seeks to redevelop substandard parks, respond to expressed demand by adding new services (e.g. bicycle routes), be receptive to unique proposals for facilities and environments, accommodate the arts, and respond to cultural diversity</p> <p>Park maintenance: maintain the existing VPB assets (more than 200 parks and 200 buildings) in good order (e.g. repairing or replacing worn out features), while supporting the Park Board's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Park safety: The VPB regularly reviews safety issues in parks and park facilities, and public perceptions of unsafe conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Consider not just allocation but location. Some neighbourhoods (blocks) are far from nearest park. (1 red dot)</i> • <i>Make more roundabouts in side-streets to calm/slow traffic but also to plant with flowers and veg. as in other parts of the city.</i> • <i>Linear parks: Park in the sky e.g. highline in NYC. Creative with location – not conventional land space. Take over car dealership on Kingsway (at St. George) acquisition (not a house but empty lot).</i> • <i>Concerts in the park (theatre, talks).</i> • <i>Not benches seating (benches and tables create problems).</i> • <i>While I agree drugs/alcohol can cause problems....I feel beer and beer gardens should be explored – no fun city.</i> • <i>Fencers for tennis courts at R.P. were gone for 2 months.</i> • <i>People can't use places during maintenance which is drawn out. Plan and complete.</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>If can't keep existing community centre, turn it into a community garden and green space</p> <p>Encourage Sunday arts and crafts fair on Robson Park</p> <p>Bring artist-in-residence to Major Matthews Park to change up space (e.g., community gardens, recycling facilities, etc.)</p> <p>More dog parks vs. make people parks a priority over dog parks (1 green dot)</p>	<p>Park accessibility: The VPB seeks recreation and leisure opportunities to provide high quality, accessible for all its residents</p> <p>Mount Pleasant Community Centre: The existing community centre is being replaced by a new community centre at #1 Kingsway (opening in November, 2009). The closure of the old centre will mean programs and services currently provided there will soon be delivered at the new location. However, the Board has yet to make final decisions about the future of the old building's site, and the way in which it may be re-greened.</p> <p>Dog parks: the VPB identifies three designations with regard to dogs in parks: areas where dogs are prohibited; areas where dogs are allowed as long as they are leashed; and areas where dogs are allowed off-leash. Responsible dog ownership behaviour is required in parks (including the licensing of dogs, leashing of dogs in public places, and picking up dog excrement in public places).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Parks need to be useful family space – where kids can play while parents ?? and watch over them and visit one another. So need small playing fields (grassy) even in small parks (not for dogs!)</i> • <i>Need more art in our community creating micro parks.</i> • <i>More dog only parks – get dogs off school parks.</i> • <i>No by-law enforcement. Difficult in Mt. Plesasant where 3 different “owners” School Board, Community Centre, etc.</i>
<p>Playgrounds (1 green dot)</p> <p>Make better use of school playgrounds</p> <p>Provide more playgrounds for small children</p> <p>Provide more swings at New South China Park for toddlers and older kids</p> <p>Put playgrounds in City Hall grounds for families</p>	<p>School playgrounds: After the needs of K-12 and other Vancouver School Board (VSB) initiatives are met, the VSB supports the use of district assets for non-school purposes, including non-profit community and commercial uses. A creative/adventure play area can be provided or upgraded, if requested at the local level, and developed in such a way as to meet safety standards, and minimize restrictions on the remaining playground areas.</p>	

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Community Gardens <i>(4 green dots)</i></p> <p>Provide more community gardens (e.g., at schools and parks)</p> <p>Establish community gardens in appropriate locations – other than busy intersections</p> <p>Promote idea of Victory Garden or Grow a Row , Share a Row in Mt. Pleasant as an example of agricultural urban food share</p> <p>Encourage urban agriculture for food production</p> <p>Keep making street and community garden plots available</p> <p>Create more ‘vertical’ gardens especially in laneways for higher food production</p> <p>Let’s make better use of City Hall park by building community gardens or hosting concerts and events</p> <p>More food security programs that include gardening and growing your own</p>	<p>Community gardens: the VPB, VSB, and the City of Vancouver (CoV) collaborate with interested groups in developing community gardens and establishing locally-initiated garden plots on School Board, Park Board, and City-owned property.</p> <p>Urban Agriculture: Among other objectives in the Vancouver Food Charter, the CoV seeks to encourage consumers to purchase more locally produced food, have food retailers shift more of their inventory to local and sustainably produced food; and increase levels of “edible gardening” in the City of Vancouver.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can community gardens become self-sufficient?</i> • <i>Would be great to have central body that oversees all community gardens so central place people can get info, get involved and expand community gardens.</i> • <i>Private homes partnering to use their yards for community garden.</i> • <i>Educate people about gardening, bees, share a row. Offer education in City of Vancouver.</i> • <i>Make “have a hen” or bee-keeping really work on less busy streets (put this into City policy) by having community events showing homeowners the benefits of such endeavours (bees really good for all plants, healthy environment, etc.)</i> (1 red dot)
<p>Planting <i>(3 green dots)</i></p> <p>Plant more native species because they consume less water</p> <p>Implement naturalization projects in existing and new parks</p> <p>Provide more trees and greening along streets</p>	<p>Planting in parks and open space: there are over 200 parks and a variety of programs that encourage residents to garden on City-owned property outside of parks. Planting in parks and other open space will be informed by the City’s ‘Greenest City’ Initiative, which supports efforts to protect nature and greenspace, specifically encouraging landscaping with native plants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Host “how to garden” workshops.</i> • <i>Plants in street meridians (build meridians).</i> • <i>This policy says protect but not <u>increase</u>.</i> • <i>Roundabouts aren’t very functional for bikers and also pose safety issues.</i> • <i>Provide more roundabouts.</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Provide more planting around intersections for residents to care for</p> <p>Use fruit trees as street trees in some selected areas</p>	<p>Map drawn here. (1 red dot)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Widen blvds. in front of homes creating more space to have planting / seating.</i>
<p>Public Gathering Places</p> <p>Create more public gathering space</p> <p>Create one central neighbourhood square</p> <p>Create more space for live music, street banners, potted plants and hanging baskets</p> <p>Create open space at Mt. Pleasant Elementary (closed from Fraser St.) and turn area into special gathering place with hard and soft landscaping (e.g., like a plaza)</p>	<p>Community gathering places: the CoV seeks to provide significant community gathering places strategically located and designed in each neighbourhood. Such places may vary in form or type by neighbourhood as defined through neighbourhood consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Central venue for music. Seasonal?</i> • <i>Bring back a bandstand for musical and other arts events.</i> • <i>Create a ‘velodrome’ interpretative site.</i> • <i>Creative, fun, whimsical, public furniture (benches).</i> • <i>Consider waster space, and allow/provide access: rooftop, alleys.</i> • <i>When festivals/events occur in gathering place need to improve all transit for people to access event e.g. more buses, valet parking for bikes.</i> • <i>More impromptu gathering space by placing?/ (fun), whimsical seating groups mid-block.</i> • <i>Cultural and heritage significance.</i> • <i>Potential public space in parking lot inside the triangular block – by Budgee Burritto.</i> • <i>Who makes decisions on this? Lots of great words in policy but is this happening?? (1 red dot)</i>

Issues/Goals	City Policy	Comments
<p>Pool <i>(1 green dot)</i></p> <p>Keep Mt. Pleasant pool, convert it to an indoor pool – provide more swimming lessons and accessible facilities.</p> <p>Provide outdoor pool to serve all ages</p> <p>Build another pool; bonus to developer who provides funds or builds a pool</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Pool: the VPB's Aquatic Services Strategy Plan (2002) calls for the removal of the Mount Pleasant outdoor pool, to be replaced by the new destination pool at Hillcrest Park – one kilometer away. As of August, 2009, the Park Board has already committed to undertake a public consultation process to gather feedback from the community regarding what to do with the old pool and community centre itself.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Keep the outdoor pool.</i>
<p>Streams <i>(1 green dot)</i></p> <p>Daylight Brewery Creek or other neighbourhood streams</p>	<p>Daylighting streams: the City's Engineering and Park Board Departments support the enhancement and daylighting of streams. However, recognizing that we live in a dense urban environment, daylighted streams will not function as they had originally done before development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Create pockets of nature even if original use cannot be restored.</i> • <i>Increase recognition of streams in MP.</i>
<p>Country Lanes <i>(3 green dots)</i></p> <p>Encourage country lanes, green back lanes, lots of greenery and gardens</p> <p>Provide more Country Lanes</p>	<p>Country Lanes: reduce the amount of surface water entering the storm/sewer system. The "Country Lane" alternative provides the functionality of an improved surface for vehicles yet maintains the ambiance of country living through the use of pavers, grass and other landscaped features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mt. Pleasant's lanes are ideal doe country lane implementation – low density bldgs, lack of park areas. (1 red dot)</i>

South

Task #2

What Should We Be Doing Differently?

Which issues/goals have not been adequately addressed?	Alternative approaches	Comments (what, why, where, how?)
<i>Park acquisition – location, “type of park</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Break down acquisition into smaller neighbourhood level. What is open space?</i> • <i>Can do a lot with small park / nook space if planned/designed well (e.g. 18th/Ontario w/checker board).</i> • <i>Build more roundabouts and traffic calming so we can plant these trees.</i> • <i>Instead of taking down houses we could look at auto shops, parking lots or abandoned properties to convert to park.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Be creative about what we call “park”.</i>
<i>Dog parks</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Build more dog only parks.</i> • <i>Followed up by enforcement and education (consistent presence, pick up poop, license dogs.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Divide existing parks to include dog spots or new dog park space.</i> • <i>Separate dog park with fences.</i>
<i>Increasing planting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy not creative enough to think about green space and transit together (biking and walking).</i> • <i>Change language to say “increase” planting not just protect.</i> • <i>Planted medians that also act as separated bike lanes.</i> • <i>One stop shop about community gardening, planting, boulevards,</i> • <i>composting...website COV simple easy to navigate.</i> 	

Which issues/goals have not been adequately addressed?	Alternative approaches	Comments (what, why, where, how?)
<i>Increasing or improving gathering places</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More concrete language in policy (too vague).</i> • <i>More details about how to make quality spaces - seasonal - cultural/festival opp. - creative, fun, etc....do a study of people.</i> • <i>Identify ideal areas not just any area (So a study ask people...already active place – true centre of the community)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Streamline go-to info so community can access info on all sorts of things that are happening in the neighbourhood.</i> • <i>Like community web pages on City of Vancouver web but raise the profile of it.</i>
<i>Community gardens</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beehives in community gardens and parks. Maybe on roofs too - put this in policy.</i> • <i>Educate/demo gardens to teach people about beekeeping, composting, and gardening.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Central community garden organization to oversee / provide go to info for all private lot, park, etc., community gardens → streamline ease of access to info.</i>
<i>Country lanes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy talks about storm water meeting of lanes but what about green/open space? Laneway gardens?</i> • <i>But keep in mind users (bikes, wheelchairs) surfaces that are accessible friendly.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •