

Parks & Public Realm Workshop Summary

Marpole Community Plan Phase II

On March 13, 2013, the City held a Parks and Public Realm Workshop to receive further feedback on emerging housing strategies that will become part of the Marpole Community Plan.

The Parks and Public Realm Workshop focused on a number of themes in relation to Marpole:

1. Food
2. Parks
3. Open Space, Public Realm, and Connections
4. Community Facilities and Services

Over 60 participants attended the workshop. Participants were divided into 5 discussion tables, one of which was conducted in Chinese. Discussions at each table were facilitated by City staff and recorded by a note-taker. The following section highlights the key ideas* from these discussions.

*This summary is our best attempt to capture the key ideas and messages (comments which were brought up several times) from the workshop. All comments shared at the workshop were recorded and will be considered, along with this summary, in the development of the Marpole Community Plan.



Key Ideas

Food

- More community gardens:
 - Public areas: Eburne Park, Marpole Park, Oak Park, under Oak St Bridge at SW Marine Dr. and Oak Street loop.
 - Prioritize multi-unit dwellings, especially south of W 70th Ave.
 - Expand the community garden at Marpole Place.
- Increase opportunities to purchase healthy food within walking distance (e.g. gap around Oak and W 67th – also need to traffic calm this area).
 - Place food trucks on east side of Oak Park and at Oak & W 67th Ave. to enliven the public realm and foster better small retail businesses.
- Integrate food initiatives and programming with educational opportunities.
- Establish Neighbourhood Food Network.
- More affordable, culturally appropriate food options (e.g. Asian).
- Locate a farmer's market south of Marine Gateway development (SW Marine Dr. and Cambie).

Parks

- Improve accessibility and linkages:
 - Arterials (and traffic) are a major barrier (e.g. W 70th prevents north and south connection. SW Marine Dr. is another barrier to the waterfront).
 - Improve accessibility to and along the Fraser River for pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Well-used parks include Shannon Park, Marpole Park, William Mackie, and Ebisu Park.
- Improve existing parks:
 - Expand the number of off-leash dog parks or designated areas for dogs in parks.
 - Need more multi-use space in existing parks.
 - More outdoor recreation options (e.g. outdoor exercise equipment).
 - Build a skateboard park (under Cambie bridge or at triangle lot at Kent and Oak Street).
 - Drainage issues – Oak and Ash Park.
 - More innovative and creative seating.
 - More trees.
 - Incorporate food assets (e.g. community gardens in Oak, Winona, and Ebisu parks).
 - More multi-use spaces (e.g. sheltered area for outdoor recreation – e.g. yoga).
 - Especially in Winona Park and Oak Park.
 - Oak Park – ice rink and swimming pool.
- Prioritize park upgrades as the following:
 - Upgrade Ash Park now because it is near future high residential densities.
 - Establish public access/park space along the Fraser River – area from Angus to Bentley Streets as a first priority, eventually connecting to Granville Street.
 - Develop new parks near the Fraser River:
 - Cambie and SW Marine Dr.

- By Marpole transit loop – connect transit hub to waterfront.
- Heather St. and Kent Ave.
- Prioritize new parks and park improvements where density is highest.

Open Space, Public Realm and Connections

- Improve Marpole’s open spaces:
 - Oak Street: bring vitality by encouraging commercial development and more residential density with accompanying amenities like shops, daycares and plazas.
 - Lower Hudson: expand commercial uses, public space and residential density at Airport Square – potential plaza location.
 - Granville: better public realm (e.g. plazas + traffic calming).
 - Parks: Acknowledge heritage with interpretive signage (e.g. Midden).
 - Fraser River:
 - animate space along the river (e.g. a theatre; kiosks for music, festivals and art; public art).
 - New riverfront park opportunities: foot of Cambie and Hudson streets, as well as Borden Chemical Properties (W 75th Ave. and Bentley St.).
 - Reduce paved areas.
- Implement ecological practices in Marpole’s parks and open space:
 - Experiment with managing stormwater runoff using rain gardens and rain barrels.
 - Restore marsh and eagle habitat along Fraser River.
- Improve access and linkages:
 - Increase wayfinding and accessibility to Fraser River (plus consider fishing and non-motorized boat access).
 - Use greenways as the “spines” of the neighbourhood, from which all parks are linked.
 - Increased lighting along river greenways and the Fraser River for safety.
 - Areas in need of improved crossings and wayfinding: 1) in southern portion of Marpole, especially around W 71st Ave. and Ash; 2) intersection at Cambie St. and Kent Ave.; and 3) intersection at Cambie and SW Marine Dr.
- Comments about Streets-to-Parks initiative:
 - Only sites with minimal impact to businesses should be considered.
 - Street-to-Park initiative on W 72nd presents good traffic calming opportunity.
 - Dead-end stub of W 72nd (immediately east of Granville) was a favored location .
- Comments on Orphaned Spaces project:
 - Redevelop spaces under bridges (Oak and Arthur Lang) for youth and wider community.
- Comments on VIVA Vancouver Program and other public space initiatives:
 - Granville Street identified as great location for VIVA projects because public realm needs improving.
 - Stage for viewing movies or performances.
 - Mobile parklet.
 - Temporary public space installations.

Community Facilities

- Comments on integrated service facility model:
 - Hillcrest Community Centre model was favoured as a precedent.
 - Co-located facility should include library, recreation facilities, walk-in clinic, and programs for young people, families, seniors and new immigrants.
 - Multi-purpose/flexible spaces.
 - Favour satellite facilities concept (e.g. West End and Coal Harbour Community Centres).
 - Improve accessibility to future community centre, especially by transit.
 - Many expressed desire to have the new community centre in a more central location, but others wanted to see it located on the existing site.
- Add more facilities/services:
 - Skateboard park, ice rink, swimming pool and improved and expanded fitness centre.
 - More community services for youth outside of the community centre.
 - Expanded library with space for research/study.
 - Increase services and facility capacities in-pace with growth.
 - More variety in classes.
 - Expand immigrant (e.g. SUCCESS) and employment services.
 - Space for people to meet, gather, and share ideas (informal and formal).
 - Public toilets.
 - Underground parking.
- Prioritize service/facilities as the following:
 - Prioritize social services for seniors, youth, immigrants, and children (daycare).
 - Prioritize spaces for vulnerable populations to receive support.
 - Expand library with additional facilities for youth study areas and flex area.
 - Co-locate library and community centre on major transit route.
 - Improve fitness centre.
 - Identify cultural space for all kinds of activities (e.g. festivals).
 - Multi-cultural, multi-language programs.

Who attended the workshop?

An evaluation form, which was distributed at the end of the workshop, included some demographic questions. These questions allowed us to get a better idea of who attended the workshop. Here a summary of this data:

- Gender: about 50% male, 50% female
- Age: wide range of ages, with largest number of participants between 25 – 34 yrs.
- Tenure: about 50% of participants were home-owner and 50% were renters
- Residents: more than half of the participants had lived in Marpole for less than 5 years.