

Youth+Planning Workshop Summary

Marpole Community Plan

Phase II – Youth+Planning Dialogue Sessions

On April 10 & 11, 2013, the City held a series of world café style dialogue sessions at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary to receive further feedback on emerging strategies that will become part of the Marpole Community Plan.

Over 240 youth, grades 9-10 attended the dialogue sessions. Eight 80-minute sessions were conducted. Youth were divided into three discussion tables. Each group participated in 20 minute facilitated exercises on the following topics:

Transportation

Housing

Parks & Open Space

Pearson Dogwood Lands Policy Planning Program (the planning team was present on the second day to facilitate a discussion focused on the Pearson Dogwood Lands)

The following section highlights the key ideas* from these discussions.

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



Transportation

Key Ideas

Cycling

- Upgrade Kent Avenue by adding/improving cycling infrastructure and extending west to connect with Hudson Street
- Separated bike lane on SW Marine Drive
- Improve cycling crossings:
 - along Oak Street
 - at Ontario and W 59th Ave
- Add more space for bike infrastructure on Granville and W 57th Ave
- Make improvements on Heather Street bike route; road is bumpy and narrow
- Provide more education about cycling safety in schools to encourage children and youth to bike
- Reasons why youth don't bike:
 - Live too far from home to school
 - Bicycles stolen or broken
 - Perceived inconvenience; it's easier to walk or to take transit
 - Don't know how to bike

Walking

- More lighting in these areas:
 - Angus and W 59th Ave
 - Marpole Loop
- Missing sidewalks:
 - Ash between W 59th Ave and W 67th Ave
 - Ontario between W 60th Ave and W 69th Ave
 - Osler between W 64th Ave and W 67th Ave
 - W 57th Ave between Hudson and Laurel
 - W 59th Ave between Heather and Columbia
- Cambie Street:
 - Add more cross walks to prevent people from jay walking, especially near Langara Golf Course from W 53rd Ave to W 59th Ave and at SW Marine Drive
 - improve pedestrian signals – longer signals
 - widen sidewalk at Cambie and W 56th Ave
- Oak Street:
 - Wider sidewalks, reduce hedges that grow over sidewalks, keep the sidewalks free of debris like broken glass
 - Improve pedestrian crossings on Oak at Park Drive, W 64th Ave, W. 67th Ave, W 70th Ave and SW Marine Drive
 - Add pedestrian crossings at all intersections

- Improve pedestrian realm on Laurel between W 70th Ave and W 71st Ave and along SW Marine Drive

Transit

Note: The city doesn't provide transit services.

- Add transit station on Cambie and W 57th Ave
- Re-design Marpole Loop by adding more lighting, improving pedestrian crossing to the loop, greening the area
- While Marine Drive Station is convenient because of the bus connections, there is a desire for more food choices on site
- Improve the timing and frequency of the #10, #17, #100 buses
- Add bus shelters and seating on Oak Street and SW Marine Drive
- Stops are too far apart on Cambie Street and SW Marine Drive, add more bus stops

Housing Key Ideas

Homelessness and Supportive Housing

- Consider locating shelters and supportive housing near parks, close to transit (Marine Drive Station), churches, shops and medical services. Locations identified by youth:
 - Along SW Marine Drive at key intersections where services and shops are in place or will be in place
 - W 70th Ave. at Hudson, Selkirk and Granville
 - Along Granville Street commercial area
- More social programs: partner with existing community service programs (e.g. Marpole Place, Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre) to offer more volunteer opportunities and services like a community kitchen to support people who are homeless and people living in poverty

Rental Housing – Social Housing (Non-Market Rental)

- More social housing for families near schools and community centres with larger family units
- Locate social housing near parks, away from busy streets yet within walking distance to transit, shops and services
- Prioritize housing for low-income, especially seniors and families

Comments on Emerging Land Use Directions for Marpole Community Plan

- While most youth participants agreed with the proposed land use at the Marine Drive Station Area, on Granville, Oak and Cambie Streets, some youth expressed concerns over views being obstructed by new high rise developments
- Locate low rise apartments near parks and close to commercial areas

- Townhouse/rowhouse/ duplex (3-4 storeys) near schools and parks, within walking distance to commercial areas (e.g. Granville Street)

Parks & Public Realm Workshop Summary

Key Ideas

Food

- Continue working with the Vancouver School Board to establish “youth led and youth friendly” recycling, composting and community garden programs in schools
- Partner with non-profit organizations to support youth in implementing green programs in schools
- More community gardens:
 - On empty lots that have been vacant for a long time (e.g. north-east corner of Oak and 67th Avenue)
 - Included in plans of new developments (e.g. Pearson Dogwood Lands Policy Planning Program)
 - Near apartment areas
 - Expand community garden at Churchill Secondary
- Provide more community kitchen programs for youth as a place to connect with others and to hang out with friends
- More farmers markets located near residential areas , within walking distance
- Farmers market/ food vendors/ food carts are attractive programs, with a focus on multicultural food options (e.g. night market in Richmond and Chinatown)

Parks

- Improve existing parks:
 - Incorporate natural habitat landscape design in parks to make the parks more interesting (e.g. natural trails, native plants, urban forest design)
 - Build a skate park at Winona Park (central location, convert ¼ of lower field to skate park, include community, especially youth in design and process)
 - Free Wi-Fi in parks (Oak Park, Marpole Park)
 - More sheltered areas with tables (chessboard design) and chairs in parks
 - Plant more fruit trees along the edges of parks
 - Upgrade facilities (tennis courts, basketball courts, playgrounds) at Winona Park, Laurier Park, Oak Park, Marpole Park, Ash Park
- Priority for park upgrades:
 - Oak Park because the park is well used by students attending Churchill Secondary and because of future redevelopment of the Pearson Dogwood Lands
 - Winona Park because of future residential development and it is a popular park for sporting activities

- Protect Langara Golf Course because of the existing habitat and many people use the trails, especially seniors who walk around the trails

Open Space and Public Realm

- “green” orphaned spaces in Marpole with trees and natural habitat
- VIVA Vancouver Program (pop rocks and parklets) on busy streets and parks, where people gather and to attract young people (e.g. Granville Street commercial area, Oak & 67th, Churchill Secondary)
- Pavement-to-Plazas public space project at Oak and 67th to enhance the commercial area and improve public realm
- Improve Marine Drive Station by adding benches, public art, washrooms
- More public art and murals along high streets (e.g. Granville Street)
- Implement more opportunities for cultural festivals, vendor/ farmers markets, food cart festivals (examples of location: Oak and 67th, Oak Park)
- Expand the Fraser River Trail riverside greenway