



Planning & Urban Design

Planning involves decisions about the use of land, resources, facilities and services in ways that support the physical, economic, and social well-being of our communities. In Vancouver, urban planning focuses on liveability. This means creating a city of neighbourhoods where all people can live, work and play.

Planning often involves making difficult trade-offs, with the goal of creating urban environments where residents feel supported and engaged, and can enjoy safe, inclusive, and welcoming communities.

Did You Know?

“Vancouverism” is an internationally known term that combines deep respect for nature with enthusiasm for busy, engaging, active streets and dynamic urban life

In Vancouver, the authority to regulate land use is granted by the Vancouver Charter. The Charter contains the rules that govern how the City operates, what bylaws City Council can create, and how budgets are set

The City of Vancouver is committed to making sure that neighbours are informed about proposed developments in their neighbourhood, and that they have opportunities to provide input. Visit www.shapeyourcity.ca for updates on the latest community engagement opportunities

One aspect of urban planning involves design. In Vancouver, the City aims to create high-quality urban design that contributes to an attractive, functional, inclusive, and safe city. Urban design is also reflected in parks and open spaces, sidewalks, walkways, bodies of water, trees and landscaping.



Vancouver Plan

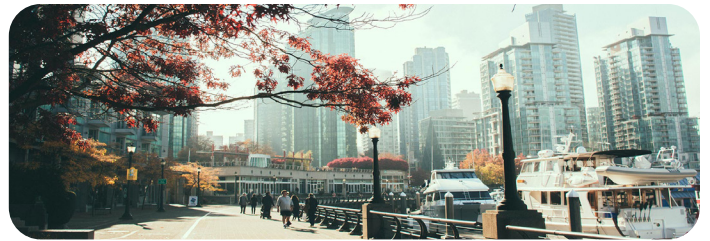
Vancouver is a dynamic place, and over the years our city has seen dramatic and continual change. While we have much to be proud of, the benefits and impacts of this change have not been equally shared by all.

Planning Vancouver Together is a process to develop a long-term, strategic and actionable Vancouver Plan – a plan that enables individuals, communities, and future generations to thrive. The goal of Planning Vancouver Together is to ensure that the process reflects the voices and diversity of our population.

Without a clear vision, our daily decisions and policies will not lead us in a direction that we desire together. In light of the

current pandemic crisis, the Vancouver Plan is shifting to respond to recovery efforts. Together we will create a clear, intentional, and actionable plan to address the needs of the present and ensure that future generations can thrive here.

Together let's create a clear and actionable plan that addresses the needs of the present and ensures future generations can thrive. For further information on the ways to get involved, be sure to visit <https://vancouverplan.ca/>



Zoning and Development By-laws

Zoning is a set of rules that set out how property can be used and developed according to citywide goals and priorities.

The City of Vancouver, including the Vancouver Park Board, is regulated under the Vancouver Charter, a provincial statute. Under the Charter, City Council has the authority to pass bylaws to regulate such things as noise and land use, buy and sell property, collect certain taxes, approve expenditures, take on debt, give grants, and hire and discharge employees.

In keeping with the authority granted by the charter, the Zoning and Development By-law establishes regulations for the development of land in Vancouver.

What kinds of things do by-laws regulate?

- The types of land uses allowed
- Where a building can be located on a site
- The building's maximum height and size
- Other provisions necessary to enable good city building
- These regulations reflect the City's values and goals.

If you would like to find out more about what uses are allowed on your property, or if you are thinking of renovating or building, be sure to review the relevant regulations in the Zoning and Development By-law. You can find out more at <https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/zoning-and-development-by-law-user-guide.pdf>



Urban Design

Urban design involves the arrangement and the design of buildings, transportation systems, public spaces, services and amenities. Urban Design is therefore the process of giving form, character and shape to groups of buildings, to whole neighbourhoods, and to the city.

Vancouver's Urban Design Panel

The Urban Design Panel (UDP) advises City Council and staff about development proposals or policies, including major development applications, rezoning applications, and other projects of public interest. The panel reviews all civic building projects, including bridges, roads, parks, beautification projects, transit systems, civic buildings, and design competitions. However, the UDP does not approve or refuse projects or make policy decisions.

Urban Design Awards

Vancouver urban design strives to enrich

the overall experience of the city by carefully considering the design of public spaces and the buildings that interact with these spaces.

Since 2014, the Urban Design Awards have recognized projects that demonstrated visionary thinking and supported design excellence. For example, the Telus Garden Office Pavilion in Downtown Vancouver was given the 2016 Urban Elements category award for its skillfully handled sculptural element that can be seen below.



Community Benefits from Development

Development contributions come in the form of Community Amenity Contributions (CACs), Development Cost Levies (DCLs), and density bonus zoning. Development contributions help deliver new or upgraded facilities that our growing city needs to be liveable for all residents. These include parks and libraries, childcare facilities, schools, and neighbourhood houses, cultural facilities, community centres, rinks, and pools, non-profit and social housing, secured market rental housing, bikeways and greenways, streets

and transportation infrastructure, and police stations and fire halls. Did you know? In the last 10 years with the help of development contributions, the City funded 2,500 new or upgraded social housing units and 3,000 licensed childcare spaces.

Be sure to keep up with the '**Shape Your City**' website for updates on the latest community engagement opportunities at www.shapeyourcity.ca

