

Workshop # 5

Parks, People and Protection



Section 1 - Community Safety

Facilitated by Terri Dame of Cowichan Valley Safer Futures
(see powerpoint link)

"What makes people feel safe in their environment?"

"What is Community Safety all about?"

"How much is achievable?"

Look at the community through a 'safety lens': what would be different / what would be happening?

- Children moving/playing in all the parks of the community without protection
- Street lights would be turned off – can see the stars
- Neighbours helping each other – connected community
- Parents are able to stay home with their children or have healthy day care = employment security and income
- Big trade school = training, educational opportunity
- Full employment
- Communication – open/ chatting
- Assisting people to overcome addictions (in a non-punitive way) = positive rehabilitation
- Wide sidewalks and lots of trees = ability to invest in infrastructure
- People walking more/ less emphasis on the care = environmental and health benefits
- Warm dry places for everyone to sleep at night
- Stability/ safety = creativity (note: in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs it is important to first provide for basics before other things can happen, e.g. creativity).
- Children and schools participate in community art and gardens = artistic and cultural opportunities for all children
- More diversity of product – value added goods = creativity
- Intergenerational respect at a high level
- A welcoming community = more interpersonal relationships > participation, interaction, reduced isolation
- Performing Arts Centre that values the range of diversity and talent
- Bike lanes
- Care for the environment = respect e.g. healthy green spaces, development and buildings
- Intercultural mingling and feeling safe outside your own neighbourhood/ community

Section 2 - Community Services

What's Missing?		What Needs Improving?		<i>What Can Be done?</i>
Children (Ages 0-12)	Youth (Ages 12-20)	Adults (Ages 20-65)	Families (couples/ lone)	Seniors (Age 65+)

▪ **Transportation e.g. bus service, bikeways, pedestrian pathways/ overpasses, roads, traffic, Trans Canada Highway:**

- More frequent urban transit service
- Cycling routes and lanes
- Better walking infrastructure
- Seniors – grocery stores, hospital appointments, etc. / youth – group activity
- Buses with ramps for wheelchairs and strollers
- Buses need to be flexible for events and to connect with Victoria buses and ferries
- Bus stop in town not be village green
- Highway sidewalk barriers a distance from road
- Traffic calming areas – less focus on getting from A to B, more on slowing down
- More roundabouts
- Phone line to check bus schedule and status of bus (i.e. if a bus is 12 minutes late – have I missed it or did it get held up?)
- Bicycle lanes and paths

▪ **Community Safety and crime prevention e.g. police, fire, counselling/ support:**

- Lots of public emergency phones
- Traffic calming initiatives
- Homeless shelter – people safe and warm
- Better paying jobs – less poverty issues

▪ **Infrastructure e.g. Water (distribution, quality, quantity) / Sewer (treatment, storm runoff) / Waste disposal (recycling, composting, garbage collection):**

- Bike lanes
- Better management of storm water
- Neighbourhood composting facilities
- Flexible town/ North Cowichan boundaries
- Innovation re: sewer treatment
- Recycling pick-up downtown in city centre
- Compost pick-up
- Swales/ ditches for stormwater
- Garbage and recycle cans
- Wide sidewalks
- Bike racks
- Curbside compost pick-up and composting facility
- Raise awareness of infrastructure to general public
- Better lighting in all walkable areas

▪ **Recreation/ leisure/ parks/ greenspace e.g. parks acquisition (where and how):**

- More children's play areas
- Water park
- Interconnected pathways
- Lots of greenspace (parking lots, street corners)
- Active vibrant seniors' centre
- Neighbourhoods with small commercial centres i.e. good grocer like a corner store and a coffee shop
- Developed footpaths (lighting, staircases, adequate surfaces)
- Safe 'garbage-free' children's play areas

▪ **Arts, heritage and culture e.g. events, support, places for art:**

- Real community theatre
- Indoor children's play area, playgroups (i.e. the Children's Museum in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)
- Public library in City Square
- Downtown carving parks and sales opportunity for First Nation artists
- Change City of Totems to City of Arts and Culture
- Street furniture - public art, g/cans, benches, planters
- CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

▪ **Community information e.g. municipal web site, signage:**

- No big mega-tron signs
- Improved communication between local government and citizens
- public bulletin boards
- public information boards
- park calendar
- a central resource centre for community or same information at several spots for neighbourhood access

▪ **Accessibility:**

- Ramps across railway tracks to provide accessibility for strollers, people with walkers/ wheelchairs (i.e. in front of Duncan Garage)
- Safe walking route to downtown (safe from traffic)
- Walking trails – people, scooters, strollers
- Improved curb cuts for seniors with walkers
- Longer walk signals
- Accessible parks and green spaces
- Pedestrians before cars are traffic lights

▪ **Housing / shelter e.g. rental listings, low-income, supportive/assisted:**

- Mixed use
- Mixed density
- Homeless shelter required
- A mixture of affordable housing (CMHC style – 30% of income, not just low end)

▪ **Employment e.g. training, job postings, counselling:**

- Quality day care
- Community employment – neighbourhood connection
- Opportunities for First Nations employment downtown
- Youth run job fairs where minor jobs can be posted like cutting lawns, painting, digging up gardens in spring

▪ **Education e.g. primary, middle, secondary, post-secondary:**

- Teach respect! For self/ others/ environment to hopefully reduce littering, aggressive driving, etc.
- Give every child the opportunity to work in a community garden and cultivate life/food
- Schools that recognize different learning styles (smaller classes and TA
- Cowichan vocational school
- Strong education in nutrition for young and old
- Centre for performing arts/ education (film, music, dance)

▪ **Health e.g. all levels of care, nutrition (food), mental health, addictions treatment:**

- Improved support for mental health patients who fall between those ill enough to be hospitalized and those well enough to live on their own
- Support for new moms (i.e. physical and mental issues)
- Needle disposal, not just for addicts but for persons who find needles in yards/ parks
- Community coffee meetings in local restaurants (this can be expanded into discussion groups or hobby clubs, restaurants welcome groups between 9-11 am and 7-9 pm)
- Additional walk-in clinics
- More community clinics with integrated services

▪ **Other:**

- Heart of Cowichan (please promote)
- Deal with aggressive and/or ignorant drivers who endanger pedestrians and other drivers
- Seniors' activity centre
- Mixed land uses rather than exclusive zones
- Volunteer grocery delivery
- Free daycare for all provided by well-paid carers
- Adopt grandparents/ families adopt older couples / older couples call on their adopted family for help i.e. replace light bulbs, cut lawn, drive to doctor
- More community involvement – not just government or agencies (after all we are the voice)
- Let residents allocate their tax dollars to areas they deem priorities
- Opportunities for intergenerational meetings of all age groups