Shelbourne Valley Action Plan

Plan Summary

The Shelbourne Valley Action Plan

The purpose of the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan is to create a comprehensive 30 year vision and implementation plan for the Shelbourne Valley. It is intended to build on and directly implement the Official Community Plan's vision of environmental integrity, social well-being and economic vibrancy.

While the Action Plan comprehensively addresses a range of topics, the primary focus is to deliver land use and mobility enhancements. These enhancements seek to fundamentally change the character of the Valley to create vibrant and liveable Centres and Villages and a balanced mobility network where walking, cycling and public transit are inviting options for all ages and abilities. The Plan's goals are shown on the following pages along with key policies that will be used to achieve them. To view the entire Plan go to **saanich.ca/shelbourne**.

Vision

The Shelbourne Valley is a "place to be" with vibrant Centres and a Village that are people-friendly and hubs of community activity. A mix of housing, shops, services, parks and open spaces, easily accessible by bike, foot and public transit, invite people to interact and explore.

The natural environment is acknowledged and protected, including through the restoration of Bowker Creek. The Valley's urban forest canopy is enhanced and Shelbourne Street revives its role as a Street of Remembrance.

The Shelbourne Valley continues to serve the region while also developing unique and desirable hubs of community activity.

The Action Plan will be used to guide Land Use and Transportation decisions in the Valley over the next 30 Years

Public Engagement

Development of the Action Plan involved extensive public engagement with stakeholders who live, work, play, shop, study and travel in the Valley. In total, over 7,000 people contributed to the planning process, including through:

- A Stakeholders Committee, composed of residents and other stakeholders, meets over 35 times to help guide the engagement process, identify issues, and educate themselves and others about the Plan and Valley.

- A Vision Survey to determine a 30 year vision for the Valley receives 797 responses.

- Community Mapping to determine how people use the Valley and their vision for the Valley engages over 1,000 people.

- Open Houses in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2016 attended by an estimated 2,500 people.

- Public Opinion Surveys in 2012 and 2013 gather feedback from 693 people on ideas and concepts for the Plan and a draft of the Plan.

- Fourteen focus groups to review and provide feedback on specific issues and directions.

- Five open houses attended by 1,500 people and surveys completed by 2,652 people as part of engagement on short-term mobility actions in 2016.

Goal #1
Protect and Restore the Natural Environment

- Promote the use of Natural State Covenants to protect remnant Garry Oak ecosystems *(Policy 4.1.3)*
- Identify additional areas of environmental significance for protection *(Policies 4.1.4 to 4.1.5)*
- improve stormwater management in the Bowker Creek and Douglas Creek watersheds *(Policies 4.2.1 to 4.2.2)*
- Implement the Bowker Creek Blueprint and support opportunities for restoring and daylighting the creek *(Policies 4.2.3 to 4.2.10)*
- Consider additional height and density for developments that daylight Bowker Creek *(Policy 4.2.10)*
- Protect the urban forest and enhance tree canopy cover, including along proposed Greenways *(Policies 4.3.1 to 4.3.2)*
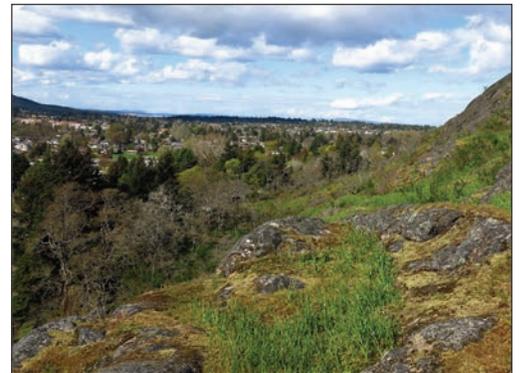
Goal #2
Address Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- Encourage the use of "green technologies" in new buildings *(Policies 4.4.1 to 4.4.2)*
- Create and encourage opportunities for district heating *(Policies 4.4.3 to 4.4.5)*
- Enhance walking, cycling and transit facilities to provide better alternatives to private motor vehicles *(Section 6)*
- Create compact, walkable Centres and Villages with a mix of uses, convenient access to transit and energy efficient housing forms *(Section 5)*
- Promote the use of electric vehicles and charging facilities *(Policy 6.5.12)*

Goal #3
Develop Economically Vibrant and Attractive Centres and Villages

- Provide increased housing and employment opportunities within Centres and Villages to bring more people within walking distance of goods, services and transit *(Policy 5.1.1)*

- Introduce new parks and open space in Centres and Villages to support their transition to complete, people-oriented hubs *(Policies 5.6.2, 5.6.3, and 5.6.5)*

- Build on existing attribute to create a unique identity for each Centre and Village *(Sections 5.2 and 7.1)*

- Expand the range of community facilities available at the heart of each Centre and Village *(Policies 5.5.3, 5.5.4 and 5.8.2)*

- Strengthen the connection of the University Centre to the University of Victoria *(Sections 5.1, 5.2.2 and 5.3)*

Goal #4
Respond to the Needs of All Ages and Abilities

- Promote a range of housing to serve a community that is diverse, inclusive and multi-generational *(Policies 5.4.1, 5.3.3)*
- Permit seniors housing in all areas designated for apartment housing *(Policy 5.4.5)*
- Encourage seniors housing in walkable areas convenient to services and without hilly topography *(Policy 5.4.6)*
- Improve safety and comfort for all mobility users by reducing conflicts between different forms of transportation, providing more direct and efficient connections, improving crossings of major roads and providing facilities to support vulnerable individuals *(Policies 6.1.4 to 6.1.7, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.6.10, 6.6.14)*
- Provide a cycling and walking network suited to all ages and abilities *(Policies 6.1.3, 6.1.10, 6.3.1, 6.3.4, Section 6.7)*
- Implement the recommendations of the Access to Transit report to ensure easy and convenient access to transit for all ages and abilities *(Policy 6.4.14)*

Goal #5
Enhance Opportunities for Cycling, Walking and Transit

- Implement a new design for Shelbourne Street that includes separated cycle tracks, transit improvements, and a safe, more enjoyable walking environment *(Section 6.6)*
- Progress towards a future design for Shelbourne Street that includes dedicated transit lanes *(Policies 6.4.5, 6.6.4, 6.6.8)*
- Undertake short-term actions that implement a continuous bike facility on Shelbourne Street (50% physically separated), upgrade 2.3 km of sidewalks, improve pedestrian conditions in major Centres, and enhance transit waiting areas *(Section 6.7 and 8.2)*
- increase pedestrian and cycling connectivity by acquiring easements to break up long blocks, enhancing crossing opportunities on major streets, and adding pedestrian and cycling paths *(Policies 6.1.1 to 6.1.7, 6.2.1 to 6.2.5, 6.3.1 to 6.3.4)*
- Complete a network of greenways and bikeways that provide improved walking and cycling opportunities for people of all ages and abilities *(Sections 6.3 and 6.4)*
- Improve transit efficiency and accessibility *(Policies 6.4.1 to 6.4.15, 7.6.2 to 7.6.4)*

Goal #6
Improve Housing Choice and Affordability

- Promote a range of housing types, forms and tenures to support a diverse, inclusive and multi-generational community *(Policies 5.3.3, 5.4.1)*
- Encourage family oriented multi-family housing around schools *(Policy 5.4.4)*
- Permit seniors housing, including congregate care and nursing homes, in all areas designated for apartment housing *(Policy 5.4.5)*
- Create new housing opportunities along Shelbourne Street and in Centres and Villages *(Policies 5.1.1, 5.3.1 to 5.3.3, 5.4.2)*
- Provide housing opportunities that are sensitive to existing neighbourhoods by transitioning height and density from apartment buildings on major roads to townhouses adjacent to single family dwellings on residential streets. *(Policies 5.1.1, 5.4.3, 7.5.1)*

Goal #7
Strengthen the Network of Community Spaces and Facilities

- Establish a network of walkable parks, open spaces and community facilities *(Policies 5.6.1 to 5.6.3)*
- Support community facilities as focal points of each Centre and Village *(Policies 5.5.3 to 5.5.4)*
- Support new parks and open spaces in each Centre and Village to encourage public assembly, social interaction, and community building *(Policies 5.6.5 to 5.6.8, 7.3.1 to 7.3.5)*
- Require Community Contribution Statements from new development that indicate how they will contribute to improving the quality of life in the Valley *(Policies 5.8.1 and 5.8.2)*
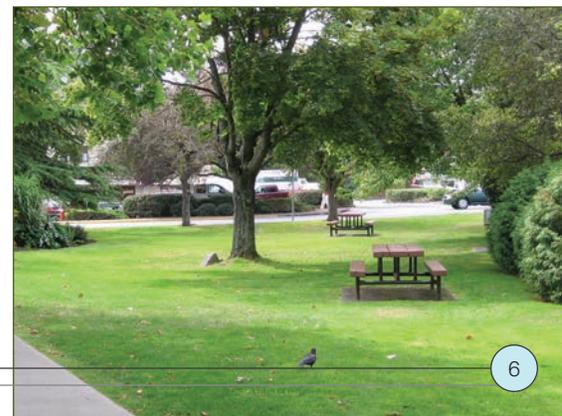
Goal #8
Enhance Sense of Place and Identity in the Valley

- Create better designed Centres and Villages that improve the relationship between buildings and pedestrian spaces and highlight streets as a space for community enjoyment and activity *(Policies 6.6.9, 7.2.1, 7.3.3, 7.4.1)*
- Strengthen the identity of the Shelbourne Valley through gateway features, street furniture and public art *(Policies 7.1.1, 7.1.3, 7.1.4)*
- Establish a public realm improvement fund for beautification projects that create unique places and strengthen the identity of the Valley *(Policy 7.1.6)*
- Increase the recognition of Shelbourne Street as a Road of Remembrance and assess opportunities for planting new London Plane Trees *(Policies 4.3.11, 7.1.2)*
- Preserve the Valley's heritage and connection to the natural environment including viewscapes *(Policies 4.1.1 to 4.1.6, 5.9.1, 5.9.2, 7.2.1)*

Putting the Plan into Action

To put the Plan's goals and policies into practice a number of initiatives have been identified. The achievement of the goals will require collaboration with senior governments, community partners and the development community. Implementation highlights include:

Add a New Cycling Facility on Shelbourne Street

A new bike facility will be implemented on Shelbourne Street in the short term, providing significant improvements on a regionally significant cycling corridor. 50% of the route will be physically separated from traffic.

Upgrade Sidewalks

As part of the short-term actions, over 2.3 km of sidewalk will be upgraded, with a focus on enhancing areas at the south end of the Valley where conditions are in need of improvement.

Improve Pedestrian Conditions in University Centre and Shelbourne Valley Centre

The areas of the Shelbourne Valley with the greatest pedestrian traffic will be improved through buffering sidewalks from traffic, improving bus stop facilities, improving street crossings, and adding pedestrian amenities.

Secure new Parks and Plaza space in Centres and Village

Parks and open space acquisitions will be targeted in proximity to Centres and Villages to support their transition to walkable, vibrant hubs of community activity.

Improve Pedestrian Crossings on Major Roads

Changes will be made to shorten intersection crossing distances, add new crossing locations and provide automatic activation of crossing signals.

Establish a Public Realm Improvement Fund

A fund will be established to allow new developments to contribute to beautification projects that enhance the quality and identity of the Valley.

Update Parking Standards in Centres and Villages

A study will assess potential reductions in parking standards, and associated development costs, in walkable, transit efficient locations.

Develop New Design Guidelines

The Plan's Design Principles will be the basis for new Development Guidelines that will guide the form and character of new commercial, multi family and mixed use developments.