

Community Consultation

The project team organized several engagement events to share information on the proposal and receive feedback, including a public drop-in event and two presentations to the local community associations (see [Saanich SOC Website](#) for engagement materials).

Approximately 109 people attended these event. It is important to note the draft Quadra Mckenzie Plan was released to the public October 21, 2024 and many of the comments the consultation received were related to the neighbourhood plan rather than the Operations Centre Redevelopment.



The public drop-in event was promoted by District of Saanich's Communication team via:

- Updates to the project webpage - [Saanich Operations Centre Redevelopment | District of Saanich](#) and Hello Saanich: [Project: Saanich Operations Centre Redevelopment Project | The District of Saanich](#);
- Message sent to all Hello Saanich subscribers (1,400+);
- Message sent to all Community Associations;
- Saanich Spotlight newsletter – distributed October 17, 2024;
- Info Bulletin to local media on Monday, October 2, 2024; and
- Social media channels.

Engagement Events

Event	North Quadra Community Association Presentation	Saanich Operations Centre Drop-In Event	Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association Presentation
Date	October 24, 2024 7:30pm	October 26, 2024 1pm to 4pm	October 29, 2024 7pm
Location	Saanich Commonwealth Place	Bucket Shed, Saanich Operations Centre	Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
Attendees	30	70	9



Staff + Consultants Present

- Stacy McGhee (District of Saanich)
 - Deane Strongitharm (CitySpaces)
 - Angelina Lamont (Colliers)
- Stacy McGhee (District of Saanich)
 - Suzy Lunn, Deane Strongitharm, Ondrej Gabas (CitySpaces)
 - Tobin Hwang (Colliers)
- Stacy McGhee (District of Saanich)
 - Deane Strongitharm (CitySpaces)
 - Angelina Lamont (Colliers)

What We Heard

- One of the most frequently communicated concerns regarding the SOC redevelopment was a future location of the **garden waste drop-off**:
 - Participants expressed frustration about potential relocation of the garden waste drop-off to a less central and accessible location. Participants were also concerned the service may not remain free of charge.
 - One of the suggestions participants repeatedly mentioned was limiting the garden waste drop-off service to Saanich residents.
- Over a third of participants at the SOC Drop-In Event expressed their opinions on the draft **Quadra-McKenzie Plan**:
 - The biggest concern was traffic congestion related to added density in the neighbourhood and reduced number of lanes on McKenzie Ave. This opinion was shared also among members of North Quadra Community Association (NQCA) and Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association (QCHCA).
- Members of QCHCA and NQCA raised concerns about contamination of the site, inquiring about how the project will approach **environmental remediation**. The project team indicated that a consultant is working to seek appropriate approvals and direction from the province.
- Participants noted the need for **remediation of the creek and public trail access**.



- Some participants indicated preference for a different structure of the **private-public partnership** between the District and a developer.

- Participants noted the development should include more affordable housing as it will be located on a public land.
- A few participants also questioned the estimated residual land value, suggesting it might be too low.



- Multiple participants expressed concerns about the **cost of the project**, proposing it be carried out in phases over time in order to lessen the impact on tax payers.
 - The project team also discussed the potential increase in property taxes related to the borrowing amount during the meeting with NQCA members.
 - The NQCA and participants of the drop-in event suggested SOC staff should pay for parking of private vehicles at the site.
- There was both positive and critical feedback regarding the **concept plan, proposed density and effect on the neighbourhood**.
 - While some participants were apprehensive about the proposed height of the development and increased number of new residents, others saw it as an opportunity to use centrally-located public land effectively to meet housing objectives.
 - Members of the NQCA pointed out commercial uses of the proposed development will increase demand for visitor parking in the area.
- A question was raised regarding First Nations engagement and the process that Saanich is following.
- In addition to sticky note comments and conversations with the project team, drop-in event participants were given the opportunity to share their feedback in a form of emoji stickers; this activity resulted in seven 'generally supportive', four 'not sure yet', and six 'needs improvement' stickers.

