



View Royal OCP Review

Community Vision Statement

WORKING DRAFT

View Royal is a dynamic and inclusive community that embraces growth while retaining the charm of its traditional neighbourhoods. It is home and workplace to people from all walks of life. Its neighbourhoods are attractive, affordable, walkable and safe. Each neighbourhood has an identifiable character and is connected to nearby centres — and a recognizable central community gathering place — through green space corridors and pedestrian/cyclist-friendly streets. Some centres are parks for families to gather and youth to play sports. Others are bustling, mixed-use places with a range of services, amenities, businesses and housing.

View Royal is a leader in anticipating climate change and actively promotes energy-efficient, sustainable development. Well designed compact housing ensures choice and affordability. Infill and redevelopment near neighbourhood centres and transit corridors provide jobs and services closer to where people live – minimizing the need for commuting, and creating pedestrian-friendly streets and destinations.

The local economy is diversified and strong, providing employment, shopping and service options to local and regional residents. Heritage tourism and eco-tourism are promoted as sustainable ways to stimulate the economy and showcase View Royal's environmental and cultural assets.

Sustainability

The term sustainability was used and discussed during the community visioning process. Based on those discussions and other accepted interpretations of the term, sustainability is understood to mean the long term viability of View Royal as a complete and inclusive community, and its commitment to plan for the health of the natural, economic, cultural and social environments in a balanced and integrated manner. Sustainable planning in View Royal will support environmental stewardship, decreased auto dependency, compact development, more local food production and alternative energy generation, social and cultural planning, economic diversification, stronger community identity, and enhanced street life.

A Central Community Gathering Place

The visioning process revealed a strong desire to have a central community gathering place that will be the civic and cultural heart of View Royal. This will be unique from the smaller neighbourhood centres in that it will serve the entire town and will be designed to accommodate community events -such as community picnics or outdoor celebrations- and meet a diverse range of needs. Some ideas that received support include creating a mixed-use, transit-oriented town centre or developing a large public park or plaza in close proximity to other community amenities. Regardless of the final location and form, the creation of a central gathering place is intended to complement, rather than replace, a connected network of walkable neighbourhood centres.

Getting around safely by foot, bike, bus and train is convenient and enjoyable, and a viable alternative to car travel. Train, light rail and other forms of rapid transit are supported by development that facilitates ridership and walkable places.

The Town is endowed with unique natural environments — Thetis Lake Park, Millstream Creek, Esquimalt Harbour and Portage Inlet. The integrity and beauty of these natural amenities are protected and enhanced while public access to recreation areas is improved. Environmental stewardship and better use of resources — such as alternative energy generation and enhanced waste management — are pursued.

View Royal, in embracing fiscal sustainability, “lives within its means” and adapts to change. The community is healthy, diverse and innovative, well prepared to meet the needs of the present and plan for those of the future.

Nine goals expand on the vision and set the framework for the plan:

1. Promote a strong sense of community in all areas and neighbourhoods of the Town, and create an enhanced sense of place and identity throughout.
2. Create an inclusive community that provides housing and transportation options, and services and facilities for families and individuals of diverse backgrounds, cultures, ages and economic means.
3. As the community grows, recognize the unique relationship between the highly valued natural and residential characteristics of View Royal, and maintain these values.
4. Confirm View Royal as an environmentally responsible community committed to becoming a more sustainable place and planning for global climate change.
5. Recognize and protect the substantial historic and cultural resources in View Royal.
6. Ensure that community services and amenities can be provided within the financial means of the municipality, and strengthen partnerships with regional service providers to increase local opportunities.
7. Provide suitable land areas and development incentives for commercial, institutional and mixed-use activities as a means of supplying local employment opportunities, broadening the municipal tax base, and promoting View Royal as a business-friendly community.
8. Recognize the regional role of the community as a link in major transportation and environmental systems, and cooperate with other municipalities and senior governments to address regional issues, while also protecting local values and promoting long-term sustainability.
9. Ensure that all citizens of View Royal have opportunities to be informed and meaningfully involved in planning and decision-making processes.