

VICTORIA WEST VISIONS PROJECT

Victoria West is an amazing community full of diverse people and places. How will it change? **What do you want to see happen in YOUR neighbourhood?** In 2003 the Victoria West Community Association decided to find out. We invited everyone to meet neighbours, bring stories, share ideas and plan our future.

We began with **Re-enchanting Eden**, a slide talk with Dr. John Lutz to explore early First Nations' and European settlement in our neighbourhood.

We went **Walking Through History** with John Adams. As we strolled by heritage houses, he told stories about the people who used to live here.

On **Community Treasure Mapping Day** families and people of all ages shared their special places and visions of Victoria West. We put our treasures on

THE MAP

Children wrote and drew their own visions at a special **School Visions Workshop**.

At our **Design and Action Workshop** we developed priorities and initiated

ACTION PROJECTS

The Victoria West Visionaires (Steering committee): Diane Carr (Chair), Jane Baigent, Sonya Chandler, Diane King, Patti Parkhouse, and Jo-Ann Youmans, supported by Maeve Lydon and GroundWorks.

The Visions Project was funded by a City of Victoria Matching Grant.

Our Community Vision

Our vibrant **Village Centre** might include a public market, cafes, bakery, Internet cafe, post office, art galleries, other shops and services around a pedestrian friendly central plaza or commons for connecting, celebrating and open air entertainment.

We will enhance our community cohesion and identity, our **Community Pride**, with more neighbourhood events and festivals.

We need to update our **Community Plan** to reflect current neighbourhood values.

Street Reclamation means safer greener streets with traffic calming, enhanced walkways, bike lanes and public transit. We envision wider landscaped boulevards, more trees, crosswalks and greenways.

The **E&N Roundhouse** should be a vibrant public place - a centre for community interaction.

Future social, recreational and housing development should focus on **health and wellness** for all ages.

Specific contributing visions included: community gardens, public art, a library, shoreline stewardship, a small hotel, safety, a laundromat, public computer access, enhance VW Elementary School and grounds, better rapid transit, great restaurants, green commuter routes, a youth centre, a community market, good climbing trees, traffic calming on major streets, green E&N - rail & trail greenway, boulevard beautification by residents, more trees in parks and along streets, E&N Roundhouse - transform (into a market, children's museum, RR museum, cultural centre, recreation centre, community centre), a village centre (Craigflower?), public access to the water, Dockside=mix of cultural/commercial/industrial development, more benches and flowers, speed bumps, affordable housing, native plants garden, recreation outfitters, entrance-gateway welcome signs, public gathering places, quality development and green building, green spaces, walkways and greenways, look after all age groups - aging in place, a senior centre, more community involvement.

- Let's get more art on the streets and in public places.*

THE VIC WEST ARTS ACTION NETWORK

AThe Network advocates for art and artists. We plan to work with community members, organizations and businesses that support the arts. We will research the City Arts Policy and plan an arts vision for Victoria West.

- Will you help transform tagged post office and utility boxes into graffiti resistant works of art?*

- Can you make mud pies? Join your neighbours to build a beautiful cob bench.*

- Need help with art projects? Would you like to work with an artist here in Victoria West? Let's apply for a Cultural Capitals Grant.*

- Your ideas??*

Network members include community residents and executive members of the Xchanges Gallery (Victoria West art gallery and artists' studios) and the VWCA. Please join us.

**Contact Sonya Chandler
382-5745 ster@shaw.ca**



Two food related action projects grew out of the Visions project - one group wants access to healthy, affordable food for our community, and the other group's main interest is gardening and greening. We merged because of our common goal of building community.

FOOD SECURITY & COMMUNITY GARDENS COLLECTIVE

🍏 Current greening projects include creating a network of community gardens throughout our community, each committed to growing 100% organic edibles, land reclamation and community capacity building.

Our first garden began in June 2004. Volunteers broke ground at the corner of Craigflower Road and Raynor Street, transforming part of a garbage-filled parking lot into the **Rayn or Shine Community Garden**. We encourage year round gardening, so drop by and learn how to grow an organic winter salad.

- Need a place to grow your own veggies? Want to learn how? Like to share your knowledge with neighbours? Please join us.*

Current food security projects include developing a **Vic West Food Cooperative** that will provide community access to affordable, nutritious foods which are produced, transported, packaged and sold in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just. This co-op is legally incorporated and a working group has been formed. Interested?

- Are you a good organizer?*
- Will you help make it happen?*



Imagine walking to work and being able to pick an apple for your lunch from a community tree. The **Good Fruit N Greenways Project** currently has 5 planting sites where volunteers plant and maintain the fruit.

- Could you plant and tend a fruit tree or fruit bushes close to where you live?*

To get involved or for more information on these greening projects please email vicwestgarden@yahoo.ca or call 388-6120 ext. 404

Tired of that brown weedy grass strip along your street? Imagine walking along a **vibrant landscaped boulevard** that you planted with friends. Chat with your neighbours, make a plan, check with Parks. Then have fun.

- Will you make it happen?*



STREET RECLAMATION

Because we are located between downtown and other communities we have heavy traffic through our neighbourhood. The dashed green lines on our map identify the commuter routes that visioning participants prioritized for greening - **traffic calming and street enhancement**.

- How can we create a safer, more beautiful place for residents and commuters?*

How about planted boulevards between sidewalks and roadways, landscaped centre medians, more trees, bike lanes and crosswalks? What about reclaiming an intersection with a Placemaking project?

The City has a **Greenways project** underway, and will support neighbourhood initiatives to encourage pedestrians and cyclists.

- Green a Greenway with your neighbours.*

In the fall of 2005 the City will work with the community to establish a **new Transportation Plan** for our neighbourhood. What would our streets look like if pedestrians and cyclists were as important as vehicle traffic flow? Have ideas?

- Will you help us plan?*

Contact Jane at vicwest.streets@gmail.com

In the heart of old Vic West along Craigflower Road we are starting a **Weekly Farmers Market**. Our working group is currently building relationships with local growers. Vic West residents can now buy organic BC produce fresh from farmers. Currently, the market runs from 3 - 6 PM on Wednesdays beside the Rayn or Shine Community Garden.

To get involved, or for more information on these food security projects please email

- Watch our barn for postings of gardening workshops and events. Please join us.*



Rayn or Shine gardeners at the barn raising.

About The Map

Jointly produced by GroundWorks and the Victoria West Community Association, this map is part of the Victoria and Region Community Green Map series. It was designed by Jane Baigent, Amy Chen, and Nedjo Rogers, with contributions from Maeve Lydon and Fernando Santella. This map is also part of the global Green Map System, which aims to promote sustainability and community participation in the local natural and built environment. Over 300 maps have been made worldwide using a global iconography and empowering local project leaders to give familiar places a fresh perspective.

See www.greenmap.org

Common Ground & GroundWorks

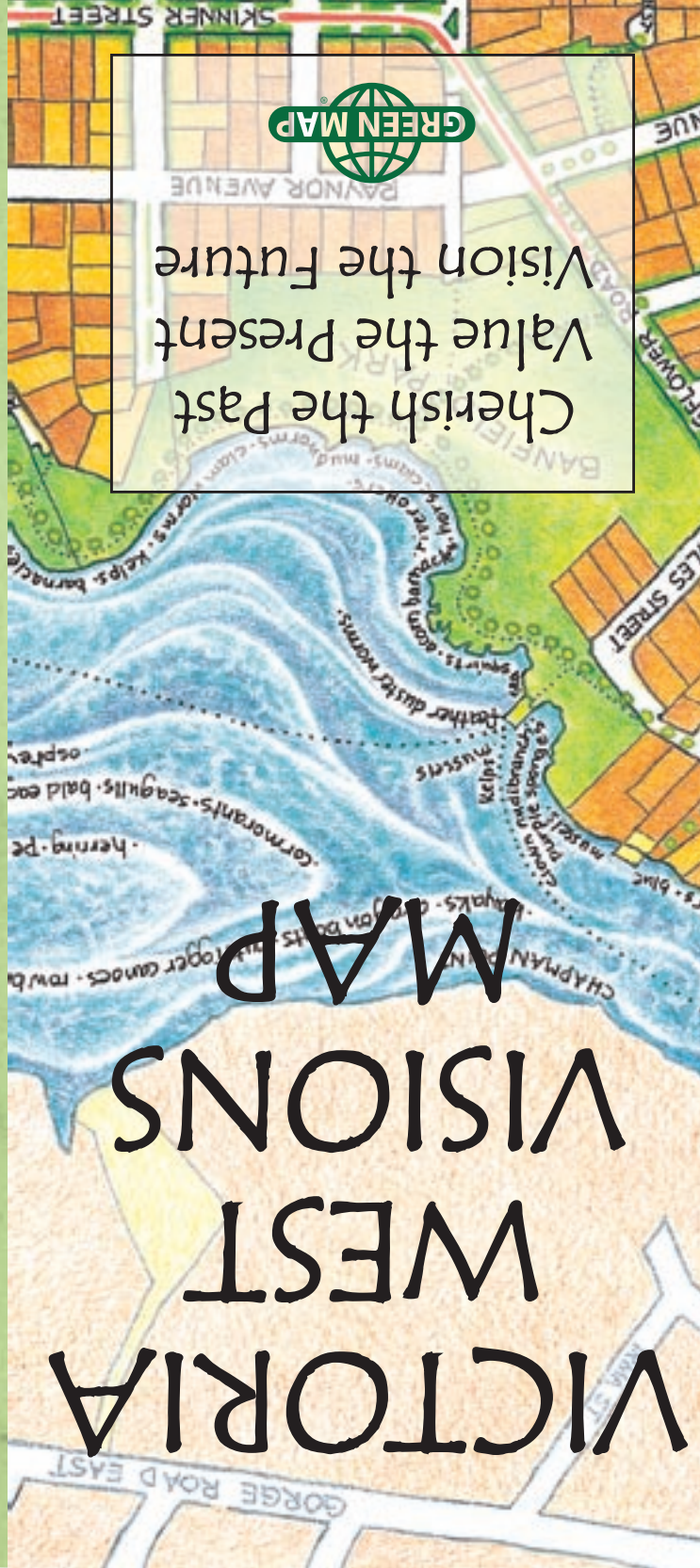
Common Ground Community Mapping Project assists communities with participatory planning for sustainability. Common Ground is a project of the Community Council.

Located at 521 Superior St., the GroundWorks Learning Centre is a partnership of LifeCycles and the Common Ground Community Mapping Project. It has meeting space, books, magazines and on-line access to information about local and global issues and sustainable alternatives.

**info@gworks.ca (250) 360-0799
www.gworks.ca & www.lifecyclesproject.ca**

Greenways & Climate Change

This map was produced as part of the **Victoria Go Greenways** project, supporting the development of a vibrant walking and biking city, walking and biking streetscapes, mosaics, signage, benches, community education and training and community mapping.



The Victoria West Community Association

Our purpose is to facilitate, support, or undertake activities that enhance the quality of life in our community. What's going on? Discover what your neighbours are thinking. Learn about Land Use issues - what rezoning or developments are planned? Find out about community events, actions and celebrations. We meet on the last Tuesday of each month, September through June, at the Victoria West Community Y. Please join us. Bring your ideas, concerns and questions.

- Please join **your** community association. Membership is free.*

**Victoria West Community Association
Victoria West Community Y
521 Craigflower Road
Victoria BC V9A 6Z5
(250) 388-6120 www.victoriawest.ca**

- Do you have other ideas to enhance our community?*

Start an Action Project. Talk with your neighbours. Share your plans at a community association meeting.

This map was generously funded by the Victoria West Community Association and:



Questions or comments about our map? **Contact Jane at vicwestmap@gmail.com**