

Renfrew-Collingwood Social and Cultural Community Amenity Infrastructure Initiative

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September 18, 2012

Executive Summary

Collingwood Neighbourhood House, in consultation with other local organizations, is developing a community-based strategy to identify and secure social, cultural and recreational amenities in Renfrew-Collingwood.

The strategy calls for

- 1. Ongoing Communications with the City** needs to be facilitated to ensure that staff is aware of emerging neighbourhood needs and that local organizations and residents are aware of changing city-wide priorities, new development and funding opportunities.
- 2. Affordable Housing** must be increased so that young people who grow up in the neighbourhood, immigrants, working families and seniors have opportunities to add to its diversity. This housing can take the form of new multiple family developments near transit as well as secondary suites, live-work units, and new forms of housing near amenities in lower density areas.
- 3. Community Facilities** are needed to meet the needs of existing as well as new area residents. These include several multi-purpose spaces in central locations, a senior's centre, child care centres, a small business hub, and a variety of recreation and educational facilities in different parts of the neighbourhood. Of special importance is the need for an expanded library and measures to make it easier for the community to use local schools for programming.
- 4. Community-Based Arts and Culture** is essential not only to help showcase the area's many professional artists, but to help strengthen the local economy and enhance the community building that is taking place in one of Canada's most diversity neighbourhoods. There is a need for display and performance spaces in local galleries and other venues. The strategy also calls for studios where artists produce art together as well as facilities for storage and office space. Public art should also reflect the work of local artists and the area's rich cultural diversity.
- 5. Public Spaces** throughout the area are essential for recreation and community building. Many of the larger parks need updated playground equipment and covered spaces for a wide variety of year round programming. Several field houses need to be renovated and made available to community organizations and local artists at an affordable rate. Priority should be given to improvements in well used public spaces rather than more isolated areas. There is also a need to create safe and active spaces near SkyTrain Stations and to improve local greenways and bikeways to link public spaces and commercial nodes.

Introduction

Collingwood Neighbourhood House, in consultation with other local organizations, is developing the Renfrew-Collingwood Social and Cultural Community Amenity Infrastructure Initiative. This is a pilot program to help the neighbourhood secure needed social and cultural community amenities in a timely and cost-effective way. The objective is to establish a process in partnership with City, relevant senior government ministries and the private sector, so that priorities identified by the neighbourhood can be implemented in keeping with the area's current needs as well as those generated by a diverse and growing population.

Current City Policy and Practices

Since the 1990's the City has undertaken Community Visions in many neighbourhoods, including Renfrew-Collingwood. City staff has, however, had limited resources to ensure items identified through Community Visions are implemented in a timely way. Under current City policies and practices, implementation is determined by resources available through City capital budgets, Development Cost Levies from new construction and Community Amenities Contributions from developers who are seeking rezonings. The allocations of funds tend to be determined by City staff according to city-wide priorities or, in the case of CAC's agreements with developers. An inter-departmental Public Benefits Committee helps ensure that the priorities of the relevant City departments are considered in negotiations with developers and in recommendations to Council.

Often when a private developer initiates a rezoning, he or she seeks out a non-profit partner that may be in need of low-cost office or programming space. In other instances the developer comes to the City for suggestions. Staff recommend potential amenities that are sometimes based on items identified in the Community Visions, but often based on city-wide priorities that would make sense to locate in particular areas. These amenities don't necessarily reflect neighbourhood priorities or the discussions held in civic engagement processes at the neighbourhood level.

Even when the suggestions reflect the Community Visions, there is often limited communication back to local residents and agencies to ensure the amenity is still a priority or that they are aware that the Vision is being implemented. In many instances residents and others who volunteered time in the community planning process wind up feeling that their ideas are not being heard or implemented in a timely way. In addition, this process can contribute to considerable public opposition to rezoning proposals.

Developing Community Amenities in Renfrew-Collingwood

Over the last 25 years, many Renfrew-Collingwood residents, business people and non-profit societies have participated in several City planning processes.

Joyce Station Area Plan

In 1986 City Council approved the Joyce Station Area Plan. It identified a number of needed community amenities including:

- Collingwood Neighbourhood House
- Collingwood Community Policing Centre
- Collingwood Community School
- Community Park Space
- Childcare Facilities
- Social and Affordable Rental Housing

The Plan also called for medium density housing on the former industrial lands near the new SkyTrain Station. After the Plan was completed, the community entered into negotiations with the City and the Vancouver Land Corporation, a City-owned company that was developing the site. The community leadership determined that it could secure many of the amenities noted above if more density and height were permitted on the site. After considerable negotiation, this led to the development of Collingwood Village and many of the needed amenities for that sub-area of Renfrew-Collingwood.

Renfrew-Collingwood Community Vision

In 2004 City Council adopted the Renfrew-Collingwood Community Vision. It contained community endorsed priorities. These priorities were updated by the City in partnership with Collingwood Neighbourhood House through community discussions culminating in a 2009 staff report on implementation. Items generated at local workshops were put into several categories including Safety, Amenities, Transportation, Housing, Parks, Celebrations, Environment, Arts and Culture, Local Economy and Social Connections (See Appendix B). This was further refined into the Renfrew-Collingwood Ideas Gathering One Pagers which summarized a wide array of creative community building possibilities into six overlapping areas: Connections, Mobility, Awareness, Amenities, Safety and Development (See Appendix C).

Updating the Community Vision Ideas

The Renfrew-Collingwood Community Social and Cultural Amenity Infrastructure Initiative began in 2010 when the Neighbourhood House sponsored a series of meetings with local residents and agencies to review and update the list of amenities identified in the Community Vision process. This information is being used as the basis for community organizations to work together with local residents, businesses, the City and senior governments to proactively implement the Community's Vision. The current list includes a significant number of measures for improvements to

- Ongoing Communications with the City
- Affordable Housing
- Community Facilities
- Community-Based Arts and Culture
- Public Spaces
- Public Transit

Ongoing Communications with the City

Community planning processes have identified the community amenity priorities of existing Renfrew-Collingwood residents. Considerable new development is also taking place in this area.. The increased population will require additional programs, services and facilities. Some of these can be undertaken by community organizations; others need permissions or financial support from partners in the public and/or private sector. Of particular importance are good relations with City staff and elected officials.

Recommendation

Local area residents, businesses and agencies would like to have ongoing contact with City staff from a variety of departments so they can receive information about emerging initiatives and provide feedback in a timely and effective way. This could take the form of a City-funded, part-time liaison officer stationed in a storefront office in a commercial area or as part of a community facility during periods of rapid change; it could be enhanced by regular access to staff from one or more departments who are familiar with implementation of the various aspects of the Renfrew-Collingwood Vision.

Affordable Housing

According to the 2006 Census, there were almost 50,000 people living in about 17,000 dwelling units in Renfrew-Collingwood. Of these dwellings, 35% were rented and almost 40% were in houses containing secondary suites. Since the early 1990's with the development of Collingwood Village and other projects there has been a significant increase in the numbers of households living in multiple family dwellings. Currently about 35% of the housing stock is in townhouses or apartment buildings.

Between 1996 and 2006, the last year data is currently available, the area's population grew by 17%, more than the City's average of 12.5% and considerably more than other neighbourhoods outside the downtown. The Renfrew-Collingwood Vision estimates that existing residents will generate a need for 3,500 more dwelling units over the coming decade. This constitutes a 27% increase. Migrants from elsewhere will put further pressure on the area's housing stock.

While the market is providing a significant amount of housing for single people and couples without children, the community is concerned that a stronger emphasis be put on developing housing that is suitable for and affording to moderate-income working people and their families. The percentage of seniors in the area has also been increasing from 11.6% in 1996 to 13.8% in 2006. With 6,755 seniors, Renfrew-Collingwood has the

highest number of seniors of any neighbourhood in Vancouver. The community is also concerned that seniors be able to remain in their homes as long as possible.

Recommendations

1. New Affordable Multiple-Family Housing

There are many sites available in Renfrew-Collingwood for new multiple family housing especially along the Kingsway Corridor and ultimately near the area's five SkyTrain Stations. Inclusionary zoning should be enacted requiring that a significant portion of multiple dwelling housing be designated as affordable to moderate income working people and suitable for families with children.

2. Renovating Existing Houses

Almost 65% of Renfrew-Collingwood's dwelling units are in single family homes and duplexes. Many of these homes are occupied by empty nesters and seniors. Many have secondary suites that do not conform to basic City Building By-law safety requirements. Secondary suites can provide affordable, ground-oriented dwellings for families with children as well as income and caretaker supports for an aging population. Residents have suggested that consideration be given to forming a social enterprise to help coordinate the renovation of single family homes in the area and to create new secondary suites and improve existing ones. This enterprise would ensure basic safety codes are met and that construction is completed in a timely and affordable way.

3. Self-Build Housing

It may be possible to create affordable housing units by encouraging developers to provide very basic interiors and allow residents to install upgraded finishes over time. This can be done by owners or through a social enterprise that carries out affordable and reliable home renovations.

4. Live-Work Housing

A significant number of people in Renfrew-Collingwood work full or part time out of their homes. This includes many local artists. The area's zoning should be reviewed to ensure it encourages self employment and small business development, while addressing potential impacts on neighbours.

5. Supportive Housing

As the population ages and there is also an increase in the numbers of people facing other health issues such as mental illness or addictions, it is important to provide supportive housing so people facing these challenges can remain in the neighbourhood and in turn find ways to use their skills and experience in overcoming challenges to help others.

6. New Housing forms in Single-Family Areas

During the Renfrew-Collingwood Visioning process there was broad support for increasing densities near major shopping streets such as Kingsway. However, there

was only partial support for introducing new types of moderate density housing within most of the single-family areas. The Norquay area (located largely within Renfrew-Collingwood), was rezoned for more density along Kingsway and provides for transition zones with stacked townhouses and row housing into the single-family area. This issue needs further discussion to ensure residents understand the implications of the current zoning and of any proposed changes that might impact all or portions of other single-family areas.

Community Facilities

When the Joyce Station Area Plan was adopted, it was anticipated that new facilities would be needed to meet the needs of existing residents as well as the thousands more people who were anticipated. Community-based facilities such as Collingwood Neighbourhood House, Collingwood Community Policing Centre, and many associated programs and services for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds were developed to help meet these needs and create one of Vancouver's most diverse and livable neighbourhoods. Many of these facilities are now operating at or beyond capacity.

Renfrew-Collingwood's population is expected to continue to grow and change with more immigrants from many parts of the world, an aging population and more moderate income working people and their families seeking affordable housing within a relatively short commuting distance of Downtown Vancouver, other job centres in Metrotown and elsewhere in the region.

In order to accommodate the needs of existing residents and the changing population, local residents, working closely with City staff, have identified the following priorities for community facilities.

Recommendations

1. Multipurpose Space

A 10,000-square-foot facility has been approved to be built as part of a major development at Boundary and Vanness; there is also City-owned land that could accommodate a 15,000 square-foot facility adjacent to Collingwood Neighbourhood House.

2. Seniors Centre

A 2,000 square foot facility is needed to provide drop-in, fitness and other informal services to meet the needs of seniors. It could be a small specialized facility attached to new housing in southern part of the neighbourhood or it could be in a multipurpose facility that could also serve as a base for community arts or younger people. It might also be accommodated as part of a facility that has been proposed by the Southeast Vancouver Senior's Arts and Cultural Society. That Society has secured land adjacent to Killarney Community Centre from the City, a promise of \$2.5 million in funding from the City and \$510,000 from various sources for finishings and furnishings. It needs about \$4 to \$5 million from senior governments and other sources to complete the project.

3. Child Care Facilities

The 2006 census estimated there are 6535 children aged 0-12 in Renfrew-Collingwood. There is an overall a shortage of child care in Renfrew-Collingwood as reported to the Vancouver Joint Child Care Council in 2011. The estimates are that Renfrew-Collingwood has just 10% of the needed child-care supply for children under the age of three, only 20% of needed spaces for 3 to 5 year olds, 160% of the needed supply for part-time pre-school and only about 15% of needed supply for school-age children. Renfrew-Collingwood has one of the highest numbers of children in Vancouver.

Collingwood Neighbourhood House operates 246 licensed childcare spaces. New, affordable, high-quality child-care spaces are required, particularly for infants, toddlers and school-age children. These could be accommodated in existing schools with renovations and/or in new residential developments. There is also a need for a drop-in Family Resource Program that could be located in a commercial area. CNH will be opening the Terry Taylor Early Learning and Care Centre in the new development at Kingsway and Nanaimo later this year. It will have 37 spaces for toddlers and three-to-five-year-olds. CNH is also opening a new School Age Child Care Program (SACCP) at Renfrew Elementary School (30 spaces) and slightly increasing the number of children in its SACCP at Grenfell Elementary School and Collingwood Community School this fall.

4. Recreation Facilities

Residents have expressed interest in expanding recreation services for the area's growing population. Some of these needs could be accommodated through expansion of the Renfrew and/or Killarney Community Centres; others through community use of schools and/or park field houses. Local agencies have proposed a doubling of the current fitness centre at Renfrew Park Community Centre to accommodate both expanded local needs and an Evergreen Community Health Centre physiotherapy program for people with physical disabilities or recovering from injuries. Other identified facility needs include:

- Pool
- Skating Rink
- Fitness Centre
- High Ceiling Gym
- Weight Training
- Pool Tables
- Ping Pong Tables

5. Small Business Hub

An increasing number of local residents have started their own home-based businesses. While these initiatives are an important and growing part of the local economy, they can prove to be isolating and to limit opportunities for growth. A

privately owned business hub is currently located at Kingsway and Boundary Road. It provides residents with hourly to monthly affordable office space as well as shared access to reception and secretarial services, meeting spaces, photocopying and other equipment.

An assessment needs to be carried out to determine whether other similar facilities should be established. Consideration should be given to providing business hubs in other local commercial areas or near SkyTrain Stations that could also contain a coffee bar and child-minding. These could be developed as a private sector initiative and/or in partnership with the community.

6. Educational Facilities

a. Local Schools

There are eight elementary schools, one elementary annex and two secondary public schools located in Renfrew-Collingwood. Because of the growing population and emerging needs, local residents have expressed a strong interest in keeping all of them open as public schools and expanding community use for other educational, cultural and recreational and child care programs and services.

In some instances, the Vancouver School Board has reduced hourly rental costs to accommodate community use of school facilities. Policies are needed to support efforts that are underway to make community use more affordable by raising funds to lock off portions of the buildings so that gyms, cafeterias, auditoriums and some classrooms can be accessed outside of school hours without having to provide security for the entire building. In addition, the working hours of more maintenance staff may need to be shifted to reduce overtime costs for evening and weekend use.

b. Storefront Tutoring

There is an interest in providing tutoring for children and adults in storefront settings in commercial areas. This could be a component of other storefront uses such a child-minding or small, multipurpose facilities accommodating youth and/or seniors.

c. Museum of Local History

Many residents take pride in the history of Renfrew-Collingwood and have collected historical articles, photos and memorabilia about the area over a considerable period of time. They would like a local facility where this material could be archived and made available to the public.

d. Public Library

The existing public library at Kingsway near Rupert was opened in July, 1951. It has heritage merit as an early example of modernist architecture in Vancouver. It provides, however, limited services relative to newer facilities. Residents

would like to have this library expanded in a way that respects its character. As an alternative, the existing building could be retained and a new library located further east in the core of a local commercial area. One possibility is on or near the site of historic Carleton Elementary School.

An expanded or a new library facility might also accommodate the Storefront Tutoring, Museum of Local History, Small Business Hub and/or community-City communications functions noted above.

7. Youth Centre

A 2,000 square foot facility is needed to provide drop in, fitness and other informal services to meet the needs of youth. It could be a small specialized facility, but it should likely be part of a community recreation centre or another mixed use facility.

Community-Based Arts and Culture

Renfrew-Collingwood is home to a large and growing number of artists from throughout the world. This includes more than 100 professional artists and many hundreds of others who study the arts and make arts and crafts in their homes or at community facilities. Thousands of others participate in community cultural activities such as the Moon Festival at Still Creek, Collingwood Days and intercultural celebrations at Collingwood Neighbourhood House, the local community centres and parks.

These activities constitute a cutting edge of creativity where people from diverse backgrounds can celebrate and learn from one another as they form part of an emerging locally based, yet global blending of cultures. Several initiatives, programs and facilities have been identified that could enhance community-based arts and culture. Some of these require considerable public investment; others could be created in existing public, commercial, or residential buildings.

These investments have important implications – not just for the arts for their own sake, but in terms of community development by strengthening the connections among diverse populations and creating a new sense of Canadian cultural identity. They also will contribute to the area's economic vitality by attracting more residents from the neighbourhood and elsewhere to its shops as well as directly and indirectly creating jobs and small business opportunities.

Recommendations

1. Displays at Galleries and Other Public Venues

Currently there is not one single gallery or other location in Renfrew-Collingwood where art is displayed to the public. Yet there is a need to showcase the work of local artists in a variety of local settings. This could include bringing art into the community to places such as local businesses, including small performance cafes, as well as community facilities and public spaces.

2. Creation Space

Many local artists work at other jobs for survival, have low to moderate incomes and cannot afford large dwelling units that could include adequate studio space. They are expressing a sense of isolation and a need for a place to connect with others creatively. Accessibility, flexibility, inter-arts exposure, and a welcoming environment to develop intercultural opportunities are also important to them.

There is a need to develop affordable studio space so that local professional and amateur artists can work in safe and healthy environments. This could include space in the basements and/or garages of private homes. However, flexible inter-arts creation space would be most suitable to address the needs of many artists, especially if it is combined with space offering public presentation or cultural education opportunities.

3. Performance and Rehearsal Space

Over the last 15 years, through cultural opportunities and education, Renfrew-Collingwood has nurtured and developed many local performing artists. They include actors, musicians, dancers, circus artists, and various cultural presenters in a broad spectrum of ages and cultural backgrounds. The numbers of media and film industry artists are also growing in the community.

There are no well designed affordable spaces in Renfrew-Collingwood for performances, recitals, rehearsals or filming. Some of these activities can be accommodated through access to existing spaces at local schools and community centres. However, these spaces have not been designed for all types of performances and to minimize the likelihood of injury to performers. Thus there is a need for a purpose-built local theatre as well as outdoor performance spaces that are designed to help ensure that artists can practice and perform safely to local and region-wide audiences.

4. Storage and Office Space

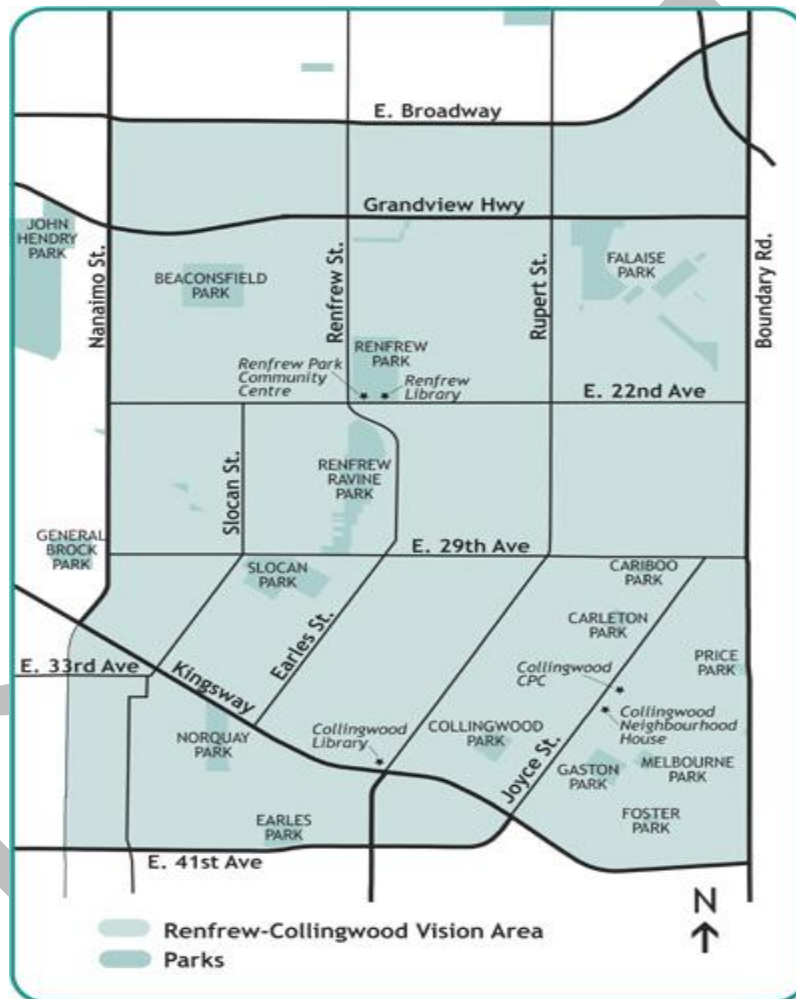
There is a need for secure storage space for materials used by professional and community artists in performances, community celebrations, classes and other activities. Local arts organizations, contractors, and self-employed artists also need access to affordable space with appropriate office space and meeting rooms as well as computer and printing equipment.

5. Public Art

There are many unique possibilities to feature the vision of local artists in public places including parks, SkyTrain stations, streetscapes, community facilities and other buildings. A strategy should be developed in consultation with local artists, residents, businesses and community agencies to feature the work of local artists in a variety of ways in public settings. This can also include interactive art that uses the Internet or other media to inform people about the local art and artists. Sources of revenues can include a portion of the Public Arts funds secured through new development.

Public Spaces

There are many parks and public spaces throughout Renfrew-Collingwood. These include larger parks such as Norquay, Renfrew, Renfrew Ravine and Slocan as well as more locally oriented parks Carleton, Collingwood, Gaston and Price. In addition there are important public spaces such as the area's five SkyTrain Stations and the bikeways along the Expo and Millennium SkyTrain routes. There are also important public spaces in the local commercial areas. The community is in the process of identifying specific possible improvements for each of these spaces.



From City of Vancouver Renfrew-Collingwood Community Vision

It is recommended that a neighbourhood-wide strategy give priority to:

- making needed investments in public spaces that are already well used
- improving park field houses and covered spaces and making them readily available and affordable for community programming
- creating a sense of activity and safety at and near SkyTrain Stations

General Recommendations for Parks, Greenways, Bikeways, Streets and SkyTrain

1. Park Field Houses and Covered Spaces

There is a need for more “field house” structures in parks that can be made accessible to community groups – especially those involved with community arts – at affordable rates. There is also a need for covered areas so residents can use the parks more easily on rainy (as well as hot sunny) days. These amenities will help provide programs for people of all ages and enliven these public spaces to make them feel safer and attractive as places where neighbours can meet neighbours.

2. Park and Open Space Improvements

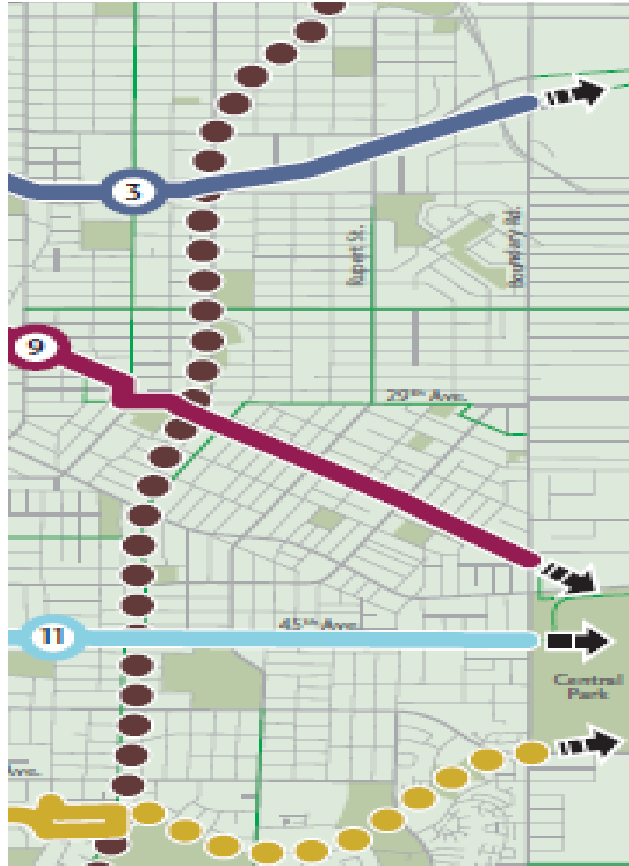
Residents have identified the need for the following in various locations throughout the neighbourhood:

- Covered areas for various activities and picnics
- Community Gardens
- Water Park features such as sprinklers and wading pools
- Basketball Courts
- Volleyball Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Pitch and Putt Golf
- Driving Range
- Fitness Structures
- Big Chess Board and Pieces
- Picnic Tables
- BBQ Facilities
- Coffee Shop on or near parks
- Off Leash Areas for Dogs
- Bread Oven in one park

3. Greenways and Bikeways

Several city-wide greenways traverse Renfrew-Collingwood including the BC Parkway, Central Valley, Ridgeway and the proposed Eastside Cross Cut. There are also local bikeways on major streets including portions of 29th Avenue, Rupert and 22nd.

(http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/streets/greenways/city/documents/CoV_Greenway_Plan_2011.pdf)



From City of Vancouver Greenways Plan

http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/streets/greenways/city/documents/CoV_Greenway_Plan_2011.pdf

- a. The network of safe bike and walking routes needs to be expanded to link the neighbourhood's local shopping areas, parks, schools and SkyTrain Stations.
 - b. Traffic signals and stop signs should be provided where bikeways and greenways cross busy arterials.
 - c. Where practical, local streams should be day lighted to create natural greenways – especially near parks and schools.
 - d. The BC Parkway needs considerable improvement to its pavement and lighting.
4. General Street Improvements
 Many streets in Renfrew-Collingwood, especially those in commercial areas and near parks and schools need more pedestrian lighting, bike racks and garbage containers.
5. SkyTrain Stations and Guideways
 There are five SkyTrain stations in Renfrew-Collingwood. Each of these is an important node for pedestrian, transit and bike access; most have potential for considerably more residential and commercial development nearby. Thus these are important public spaces.

- a. Safety
All of the SkyTrain stations need improvements to increase the perception, and in some cases, reality of public safety through such amenities as improved lighting, lockable bike storage and video cameras.
- b. Stations as Public Gathering Places
In addition to public safety improvements, each of the SkyTrain stations should be reviewed to see how it can best serve as an important public square. Some areas at or near the stations could become a focal point for community events such as farmers markets or live performances; others could display public art; some can be enhanced through community gardens, small cafes or food carts.
- c. Beautifying the Guideways
Many of the areas along the guideways could benefit from additional vegetation. Some could also be used as interesting community venues with community gardens, kiosks, public art and other locally based features.

Recommendations for Specific Parks (see Appendix D)

Public Transit

The Renfrew-Collingwood area is very well served by the Expo and Millennium rapid transit lines and north/south bus service that links commuters to the area's five SkyTrain stations. There is also very good bus service along the area's arterials. However, it is challenging to travel by transit within the area to and between several of the major community facilities, the health centre and shopping areas. There is a need for a more locally oriented shuttle service so that young people, seniors and others without private vehicles could more easily use these recreational, cultural and social amenities, especially at night.

Recommendations

1. Shuttle Bus Joyce Station to Renfrew Park Community Centre
2. Shuttle Bus Joyce Station - Killarney Community Centre
3. More frequent local bus service using smaller vehicles

Process for Implementing the Community Vision

As with any complex planning initiative, Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood leaders have been implementing parts of the Community Vision where they believe they have a mandate and as opportunities arise. Some of these opportunities come about as a result of initiatives undertaken by the City, School Board or Park Board. Others are the result of site specific rezonings. At the same time ongoing work is underway to identify and gather community support and resources to implement other emerging community priorities.

1. Confirming Community Priorities

The priorities identified in this report need to be broadly discussed with local residents, business, agencies and other groups in the community to confirm that these items have widespread community support and to seek local champions for specific initiatives. An organizational structure should be formed to share information about the array of initiatives. Groups interested in pursuing specific projects should be given a mandate to work toward implementing ideas that are important to them. These groups should, however, report back to ensure the actions are coordinated.

2. Fleshing Out Gathered Ideas

The community will flesh out some additional detail about the proposed amenities for which there is considerable local support. This would include a preliminary assessment of the size and location as well as the capital and operating costs and groups that might be interested in taking a lead role in implementation. Where information is available, the community's identified "need" will be measured in relation to City standards. The community may also amend its list by looking at city-wide priorities to see which, if any, might achieve community support for location in Renfrew-Collingwood.

The result of this work will be shared with relevant City staff, local property owners, community organizations, and the media as well as business people engaged in real estate and development.

3. Preliminary Costs and Sources of Funds for the Gathered Ideas

After the community has approved a fleshed-out and reorganized list of the Gathered Ideas, it is important to work with City staff and other partners to develop preliminary capital and operating costs estimates for high-priority ideas.

As opportunities emerge for implementation, each Idea will become a row in a table where the columns are potential sources of funds which will include:

- Resources from existing community organizations or local businesses
- City Community Amenity Contributions
- City Development Cost Levies
- City Capital Plan
- City Zoning Requirements

- City Operating grants
- Senior government capital funds
- Senior government operating grant programs
- Grants from Foundations and Private Businesses
- Other sources

4. *Developing Partnerships for Implementation*

The preliminary table will be circulated to relevant partners and potential funders for comment and consideration. It is expected that in some instances community organizations, funders, developers or property owners may express an interest in supporting project implementation; others will require formal applications to funders or await applications from developers for development permits or rezoning.

The objective will be to finalize the table of priority ideas and potential sources of funds and to identify community champions for each. This table will be the basis of information sheets that can be circulated to developers, City staff and others. It can also be part of an ongoing media strategy to celebrate successes and attract needed resources. Resources will also be sought so the community can engage a part-time staff person, and form an appropriate advisory structure, to support the ongoing implementation of the Renfrew-Collingwood Social and Cultural Community Amenity Infrastructure Initiative.

5. *Implementing and Monitoring the Community Amenity Initiative*

Once the community, City and relevant partners have approved the implementation strategy, the initiative will be piloted and assessed. There will be regular meetings amongst the partners and advisors as well as a formal annual report – including a public report by the neighbourhood, hopefully in cooperation with City staff to City Council. Each year the process will be formally reviewed to ensure it is functioning effectively and to determine whether there have been changes to the list of community priorities.

Early Opportunities for Implementing the Community Amenities Initiative

1. *Implementation Opportunities from Rezoning for Large Development*

a. Boundary and Vanness

In 2010 and 2011, Renfrew-Collingwood community leaders worked with City staff to provide information and seek the views of local residents about a proposal by the Wall Financial Corporation for a major development at Boundary and Vanness. They also spent a great deal of time negotiating with the City about the Community Amenity Contribution that the Wall Financial Corporation would provide for the proposed rezoning to accommodate three roughly 30-storey towers containing more than 1,100 dwelling units.

After considerable negotiations, Wall and City staff agreed that MOSAIC, a major region-serving, multicultural organization, would receive a 23,000 sq ft facility and that 10,250 sq ft would be developed as multi-purpose space for local

residents. The multi-purpose space (and, two days a month, public use of a considerable outdoor public plaza) will be programmed by Collingwood Neighbourhood House on behalf of the community.



The project represents the single largest development in the history of the city outside the Central Area. At the Public Hearing most speakers spoke in favour of the proposal. In addition to the multi-purpose space the community asked for the following so that other items from the Community Vision could be implemented:

- Public Art – Council instructed City staff work with the community to determine how a significant portion of the \$1,329,620 set aside for public art should be spent to best showcase the large and diverse arts community in Renfrew-Collingwood.
- Street Improvements – Council suggested that City staff work with the community to determine how the \$1.0 million set aside for street improvements might best be spent to meet local needs.
- Park Improvements – Council suggested that City and Park Board staff work with the community to determine how the \$1.0 million set aside for local park improvements might best be spent to meet local needs.

The neighbourhood would also like to be engaged in discussion about how the \$8,322,984 in Development Cost Levies are spent in the area. These funds are set aside to “help pay for facilities made necessary by growth, including parks, child care facilities, replacement housing (social/non-profit housing) and various engineering infrastructure.”

Thus the Boundary and Vanness Rezoning helped initiate a process whereby developers and City staff can work with the neighbourhood to use Community

Amenity Contributions, possibly in combination with Development Cost Levies and other capital funds, to meet local needs.

b. 2400 Kingsway

The City of Vancouver owns the property at 2400 Kingsway which houses a historic motel. The Norquay Village Plan (see next section) identifies the neighbourhood's desire for significant community gathering space. The plan says this space could be included in a redevelopment at 2400 Kingsway. It says the space "should be flexible in nature, in order to address the diverse needs and priorities of the community." It identifies two priorities: "An indoor public gathering space on the 2400 Motel site that provides programming to meet the needs of residents including artists, seniors and youth." The second priority is for "an outdoor public gathering space on the 2400 Motel site that is programmable for community events and activities."

As the Southeast Vancouver Senior's Arts and Cultural Society has obtained a promise of land adjacent to the Killarney Community Centre from the City, and has assembled some of the funds for building a seniors centre, there has been more of a focus on a cultural gathering space at the 2400 site.

2. Norquay Village Plan

Most of Norquay Village is situated in Renfrew-Collingwood. The Norquay Village Plan, which was adopted by City Council on November 4, 2010, contains a number of recommendations for additional forms of denser housing, park and greenway improvements and community facilities that are consistent with the Renfrew-Collingwood Social and Cultural Community Amenity Infrastructure Initiative and may provide a policy mandate and other resources to help achieve community-identified objectives. In terms of amenities, area residents are very interested in the "linear park" the City has proposed, running from Kingsway through to Slocan Park, other park improvements and a substantial neighbourhood gathering space.

3. Draft Report of Mayor's Task Force on Housing Affordability

The Task Force has produced a plan that calls for many initiatives to promote affordable housing and needed community amenities that are consistent with the objectives of the Renfrew-Collingwood Vision as well as the Norquay Village Plan. The report provides a platform to discuss the importance of inclusive community engagement in helping to determine needed amenities. It also calls for creation of a housing development corporation and a land trust to help implement the City's affordable housing policy. It should be possible to work with these institutions to help meet the emerging needs of existing, as well as new local residents.

4. New City of Vancouver Strategies to Provide Studio and Creative Spaces

The City's Cultural Services Department has begun to look at innovative ways of providing studio space for professional artists. These include at least four spaces in Renfrew-Collingwood:

- Falaise Park Field House
- Slocan Park Field House
- City-owned spaces at 2625 Kaslo Street
- City-owned spaces at 2629 Kaslo Street

A number of local artists have formed a co-op and applied to use one of these spaces. They have indicated ways in which they are willing to work with one another and also ways in which they have and will continue to engage others in the area in community arts activities.

It is suggested that the City be approached to ensure

- Local artists are given priority in securing spaces
- Engagement of artists with the community is part of the selection criteria
- The Renfrew-Collingwood Community has a role in selecting the artists who occupy City-owned facilities in the area.

Conclusion

A great deal of community and City staff time has been used to help plan the future of Renfrew-Collingwood. The Community Vision and associated Ideas Gathering findings call for a significant amount of new housing and commercial development as well as an array of amenities to serve existing and new residents. The planning process has not yet, however, resulted in a predictable implementation strategy. This means that it is unclear when current, let alone anticipated, community needs will be met. This uncertainty tends to reduce community confidence that the City and other governments are committed to improving the quality of life in this growing neighbourhood. This can also undermine support for and contribute to opposition to new development.

Although there have been some recent positive examples of co-operation between the City and staff from departments such as Planning, Cultural Services, Social Development and the Parks Board, much work remains to be done to create relationships and a structure in which community-identified amenities can be achieved through partnerships between local residents and community, public and private sector partners.

The Renfrew-Collingwood Community Amenities Initiative has already helped local residents and organizations to have a greater voice in the delivery of some amenities. In its next phase it will develop a specific set of community-based priorities, each with local champions. This will put the community in a position to take a leadership role in implementing plans. Some of the priority initiatives will require funding from public, non-profit or private sources; some will be supported through the development permissions. Others may result from realignment of existing programs or through formal or informal arrangement with property owners and others. The key is for the City to empower and work collaboratively with local leadership and to put the community at the centre of community amenities.

Appendix A

Vision Highlights

Renfrew-Collingwood Today

Renfrew-Collingwood is a dynamic, family-oriented neighbourhood, known for its active community spirit and remarkable diversity. Its residents value the area's single family neighbourhoods, views from public places, and open sections of Still Creek and Renfrew Ravine. The area's parks offer precious open space and are heavily used as are the community centre, pool, neighbourhood house, and community policing centre. The Vision seeks to maintain these community assets.

The Renfrew-Collingwood Vision also seeks to improve the community. Residents want more actions to protect the environment and daylight Still Creek and new initiatives to improve community safety and increase the attractiveness of parks, school grounds, streets and lanes. Primary arterials should be made safer and easier to cross and several secondary arterials should be reclassified as collectors. Residents seek increased input to decisions which affect them, enhanced walking/biking routes, and expanded recreation programs for youth, seniors, and families. The Vision supports additional seniors housing and new housing variety around more attractive shopping areas.

Create More Attractive Parks, Streets, Lanes, and Public Places



There should be more variety in park design, appearance, and activities to serve the diverse population of the community. School grounds should become attractive, usable community spaces. More park space should be added in poorly served areas of Renfrew-Collingwood and along restored areas of Still Creek. Renfrew Ravine should be enhanced and all parks should be better maintained. More attention should be paid to safety in parks. Streets should be enhanced as pleasant green links that connect the

neighbourhood and there should be greener alternatives to fully paved lanes. Views from public places like parks and streets should be protected. Existing major public buildings with heritage character should be retained with compatible renovations and additions.

Create a Cleaner Community, Focus on Environmental Initiatives

Residents and businesses, with City support, should work to create a clean and litter free Renfrew-Collingwood. Individuals and businesses should increase recycling and composting and improve their conservation of energy and water. The quality of community streams like Still Creek and Renfrew Ravine should be improved. The City should work with other levels of government to incorporate sustainable practices in their own operations and to regulate noise, emissions, and water/energy use.

Enhance Community Safety

Individuals, the community, and the police should increase their efforts to create a safer community. Prevention initiatives, especially for youth and around SkyTrain stations, should be increased. The City should initiate a comprehensive look at prostitution to reduce its negative community impacts.



Create Neighbourhood Centres around Important Shopping Areas

Collingwood Village, Norquay Village, and select mini-nodes (22nd/Rupert, 22nd/Renfrew, and 29th/Rupert) should be enhanced to act as the heart of their adjacent neighbourhoods. New housing should be added to help support the shopping areas. On the commercial streets improvements should make them more convenient safe, and comfortable: shops and services should be continuous along the ground floor of buildings and there should be more street trees and sidewalk merchandise, improved pedestrian safety, additional convenient parking, more attractive store fronts, and cleaner streets and lanes.



Make Streets Safer

Conditions and safety for residents, pedestrians, and transit users should be substantially improved on all arterial streets in Renfrew-Collingwood. Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings should be improved, traffic speeds controlled, intersection safety enhanced, and the adverse impacts of trucks reduced. Several secondary arterials should be reclassified as neighbourhood collectors and more local streets should have traffic calming and parking reserved for residents. Buses should be more frequent, comfortable, and convenient and they should be given more priority on streets.

Improve Community Involvement in Decision-making

Residents should have greater and more timely input into decisions about changes in their community involving matters ranging from major items like SkyTrain stations and prostitution to recurring decisions on transit and park planning, street and traffic changes, and development proposals (including the location of drug treatment centres). The City and the community should form more partnerships when planning and implementing community projects. An annual community capital program should be established to be spent on unique community priorities.

Maintain and Enhance Single Family Neighbourhoods

Residents want to maintain the single family character of most of Renfrew-Collingwood while introducing design controls for new homes across the community. Incentives should be developed to retain the community's heritage and character homes. Resolution of complaints arising from rental suites should be handled more consistently and efficiently.



Enhance Community Services

Additional affordable services for seniors, youth, and families from a range of cultural backgrounds are desired in new or upgraded facilities. Library services should be reviewed and modified to better serve the public. Information on all services provided either by the City or others should be available in languages, forms, and locations which are convenient for residents and businesses.

Add New Housing Opportunities

Homes with a legal rental suite should be permitted in more areas of the community, provided they have adequate parking, pay their fair share for services, and are accompanied by the community facilities and services needed by the additional population. Housing variety should also be increased around Collingwood, Norquay Village, and a few smaller commercial nodes to help support shops and services and put people close to shopping and transit. Some small developments designed for seniors should be permitted near parks, shopping, and transit to allow seniors to stay in the community as their housing needs change.

Improve Walking and Biking Routes

Popular walking and biking routes which link destinations like schools, community facilities, and parks within Renfrew-Collingwood should have safer crossings of busy streets, more greening, and other improvements.

Appendix B

List of Community Ideas

Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security of community garden
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More public safe space • Make areas around SkyTrain safer, particularly quiet stations and times
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth centre in the community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recorded video camera for SkyTrain and bus stations
Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth specific space (multipurpose) • Youth – finding something for them to do; help engage them with others in community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand community gardens into northern Renfrew-Collingwood • Possibly rooftop gardens
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine public art space with child care with cafes and meeting spaces (like Roundhouse Community Centre)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop covered facility space underneath SkyTrain • City square in front of Joyce SkyTrain station • 2400 motel redevelopment is an opportunity for a facility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop art space for production and for performances
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more recreation facilities including skating rink, fitness club, swimming pool facilities • Open up swimming pools and Swanguard track to public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop smaller centres throughout community
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a seniors centre within 500 metres of transit • Develop seniors housing near transit to encourage independent living
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put public transit into context of residential development and community facilities • Create welcoming public spaces, facilities and landscaping around SkyTrain stations to enhance sense of community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design transit and community facilities to better accommodate people with physical disabilities • Make buses bike accessible
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents need to know land that is owned by the City will made be available for housing so community can see and be involved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more public activity space within housing developments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there is a diversity of housing types including secondary suites, lock off units in multiple family buildings, midrise 6-12 stories • Encourage sustainability through green building design, roof gardens and good landscaping
Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop water parks like at Slocan Park • Create more facilities for youth including basketball, volleyball, and tennis courts; water park
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a covered park shelter for Collingwood with lighting so people can feel safe and can stop to exchange conversation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide fitness equipment for seniors • Create big chess boards • Provide picnic tables and barbeque pits
Celebrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold festivals in parking lots

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure funding for the events like the popular Moon Festival
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With increased housing densities, ensure there is more public space and community gardens as an alternative to private yards
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daylight local streams through school yards and other public spaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services to encourage people to walk and meet others throughout the community
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply some of the Trout Lake Initiatives to Renfrew Ravine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more community gardens, orchards, and green laneways
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more garbage and recycling cans on streets and parks • Establish a place to recycle batteries (neighbourhood house?)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use public spaces to attract people by building playgrounds and greening of the area, especially near SkyTrain stations • Develop more public art to encourage more people to walk through neighbourhood • Paint Joyce SkyTrain station to make it more attractive • Create more dog park spaces
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase affordable access to school facilities to provide community and government services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use community spaces for non-traditional groups. For example encourage seniors to use scout hall; create a storefront tutoring program. • Map community facilities as assets • Create lots of places to meet informally other than private coffee bars like Starbucks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up several tables for playing ping pong or pool to diversify the sports program in Collingwood neighborhood house
Arts/Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more opportunities for residents to be in plays and theatre performances • Develop more performance spaces
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage community choirs and other singing opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more night life activities • Provide live music on Friday nights
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide more dance classes in the neighbourhood
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop more studio space for rehearsals and performances
Local Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage more restaurants, shops, and a local pub (a real neighbourhood pub where people can meet one another, not just a watering hole) • Encourage greater variety of shops and restaurants; • Encourage more coffee shops and other places to meet and gather,
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the City to beautify commercial districts • Beautify commercial areas with places for flowers, Christmas lights, and public art including decorated manhole covers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct wider sidewalks to enable market stalls and lively streets
Social Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a more United Neighbour-hood: more dog parks and gardens to help people overcome shyness, especially newcomers • Create a central outdoor public space and meeting place
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase community access for non traditional services – storefront for tutoring, scout hall for seniors

Appendix C

Renfrew-Collingwood Ideas Gathering

Community One Pagers



Renfrew Collingwood Ideas Gathering

AMENITIES

PRIMARY IDEAS

Amenities are there for us to meet and do things, and must be safe* and clean. A priority is to identify places that can be used in multiple ways.

Multipurpose Places

Local facilities should have many purposes, be easily accessible and make the best use of limited space:

- > Map community facilities as assets and look at gaps
- > Decentralize community services
- > Turn schools into places that house community and government services
- > Combine public art space with child care with cafes and meeting space (like the Roundhouse)
- > Take 2400 motel as an opportunity
- > Use community facilities for non-traditional services, e.g., storefront for tutoring, scout hall for seniors

Places to Meet

The community should build on its rich tradition of inclusively building gathering spaces and amenities.

- > Create a central outdoor meeting place to connect* residents, helping overcome shyness, especially newcomers, e.g., park shelter cover with lights for people to feel safe and exchange conversation; turn Norquay Park into a neighbourhood focal point
- > Connect different groups and ages of students through collaborative projects and community participation
- > Create alternative places to meet, such as coffee shops other than Starbucks, dog parks and gardens
- > Encourage opportunities to meet, such as a parking lot fest and the Moon Festival

Places to Do Things

- > Community gardens: make sure gardens are secure; expand community gardens into northern Ren/Coll; rooftop gardens; public yard space and shared backyard space for gardening; student-run organic gardens
- > Youth space: multipurpose; engage youth with community. Places for youth are identified as a safety* issue, perhaps a concern of working parents
- > Art spaces: free artist gathering places, art space for production and for performance for adults; more opportunities to be in community choirs, singing, plays and theatre performances, more theatres, studio spaces, dance classes, night life, live music on Friday nights
- > Recreation facilities: Skating rink, fitness club, swimming pool; open up swimming pools and

Swangard track to public; ping pong and pool tables at CNH; fitness equipment for seniors; light exercises for Chinese seniors; approach city for funding for new fitness centre/recreation centre; smaller community centres

- > Parks: more park amenities for youth such as basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, water parks, playgrounds; chess boards, picnic tables and barbeque pits; driving range, pitch and putt
- > Shops and restaurants: More variety and a real neighbourhood pub (not just a watering hole); postal outlets; pocket markets, e.g., at Norquay Park

SECONDARY IDEAS

Ideas for safe and clean **natural and built environments** include daylighting local streams; linking Trout Lake initiatives to Renfrew Ravine; green laneways; more garbage cans; place to recycle batteries; more art to attract walkers, e.g., paint Joyce station; collaborating with the city to beautify and promote commercial district like Kingsway; flowers, Christmas lights, decorated manholes; nicer street lights, banners, creative tree grates; wider sidewalks for market stalls and lively streets; Cycle Club—free cycling course, cycle routes.

Places to live are a concern. Seniors need to live close by to amenities to encourage independence. We need to know city-owned land that might be available for housing so community be involved in housing developments. We'd like to see housing diversity, sustainable housing, green buildings, suites and midrise buildings 6–12 stories.

Safe* public spaces, particularly Skytrain, concern residents. Skytrain/bus stations should be greened and could have a city square in front; Skytrain lines could have a covered facility space underneath. Better equip Skytrain and buses for physical ability and bikes.

We need to build **partnerships** with local businesses, agencies and government.

CHALLENGES

Safety* is a recurring theme, particularly Skytrain.

There is increased density but no new **amenities*** such as meeting or public art spaces. Streets, shopping districts are not pretty.

Newer **housing** units are quite small; we need more family units. There are not a lot of kid-friendly places.

1 of 6

An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >



PRIMARY IDEAS

Awareness of local assets, achieved through information distribution, celebrations and education, puts "people in streets and bums in seats." Residents will better access local services and shops, and feel more safe* and connected* to each other and the community.

Accessing Shops and Services

Local restaurants, shops and history are major assets that need to be promoted to connect and draw residents inside and outside the community. Ideas to do this include:

- > Walking tours of local shops and historical buildings
- > Newspaper reviews of local restaurants
- > Advertising local specialty destination shops outside the area
- > Increasing the frequency of *RCC News* and including articles about local businesses other than ads
- > Fact sheet supported by local businesses and organizations with info on schools, resources, shops, languages, bakeries
- > Guides to local restaurants and shops at every Skytrain station
- > Market multicultural aspects: "world in a city"
- > Community artwork and historical photography

It is also important to increase resident awareness of existing services and amenities, such as the Small Grant program, community gardens and settlement services.

Celebrating Cultural Diversity

The neighbourhood's cultural diversity is an asset that can bring people together and should be celebrated, encouraging mutual respect. We should look to wisdom in other cultures to create strong family and neighbourhood connections.

- > Bring people together through common themes such as food, culture and music, including cook-offs and games as part of Collingwood Days
- > Tap into the skills of different generations and cultures to share with one another ways to cook, celebrate and garden
- > Hold weekly events with other cultures and celebrate traditional events
- > Offer field trips to local cultural attractions; create cultural heritage sites/museum for children, youth and seniors
- > Create a Collingwood cultural crawl and artist studio visits and highlight how the Nootka fine arts program benefits the community

To help new immigrants learn about Canadian life:

- > Go through children and schools as access points for information
- > Encourage them to volunteer in the community
- > Communicate and market activities through Cultural Connectors

SECONDARY IDEAS

Safety* awareness is a recurring concern among residents as well as the need to distribute information on snow removal and the garbage schedule.

Youth are concerned about increasing **environmental awareness**. They see a need for education dealing with biking and cyclists, and to work with schools to raise environmental awareness in younger generation. A car pool for recycling is another idea.

We need to better promote **outdoor activity**: walks and birdwatching tours through Renfrew Ravine and the BC Parkway. Parks would be better used if we publicize game schedules (baseball, football, basketball) so more people can watch, get youth involved in planning park improvements and hold activities such as bootcamps.

It's important to look at **housing** holistically, with more diversity, sustainability and affordability. Use the visioning processes and neighbourhood centres to direct the shape of housing and fill gaps; identify priority issues to work with partners, developers and the city; continue involving the community in its rich tradition in building gathering spaces and amenities*; and consider older residents with skills to convert homes.

CHALLENGES

We need to take care of the **environment**. There's a divide between those who drive and those who bike. Garbage disposal on public property, and not recycling and composting are problems. More recycling depots are needed and the recycling system (sorting) is confusing—the city needs to clarify where it all goes. Water pollution in the ravine has led to loss of fish fry.

To encourage people to spend locally we need more **awareness*** and promotion of local restaurants and food shops. There a lack of information on recreation.

We have lost our sense of responsibility to each other; there are cultural differences and weak social **connections***.

2 of 6

An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >



PRIMARY IDEAS

Residents want to be more connected to community: to get to know one another, learn each other's cultures and skills, and find ways to contribute to society. To do this we need to bring people together, share skills and engage in community life.

Bring People Together

Activities to build community make people feel less isolated and allow newcomers to feel included, make friends and learn about Canadian life. Ideas include:

- > Celebrations: Yearly masquerade ball; block parties; Youth celebrate Canada Day and other youth-initiated events; links with Italian Cultural Centre, other cultural groups and festivals such as Diwali
- > Community events: dances, concerts, library events, lectures, pocket farmer markets; bake offs, fundraising Masala-Dosa cooking contests; Skytrain bandstand; events around common themes (food) like stone soup night, potlucks, community dinners, movie night; sports, dance competitions, field trips
- > Bringing decentralized services to residents into multipurpose, easily accessible, local amenities*; turn Norquay Park into a neighbourhood focal point; turn schools into community spaces
- > Activities around community artwork, including murals, and history of the area; gathering places/opportunities for artists; create an arts economy; cultural growth through multicultural activity
- > Intergenerational and intercultural connections such as ways for youth to make friends in different ages/groups, seniors and youth groups, links with Chinese youth talents group, elder youth college

Share Skills and Resources

- > Bring skills, assets, needs together: transfer old skills to youth, such as cooking, gardening, traditional crafts; transfer new skills, such as using computers and digital cameras, to older people; cross-age groups like grandparents storytelling to children; opportunities for new-Canadians artists to practice or share their skills; link Windermere's Athena program with community performances/exhibitions
- > Housing inventory: make the most of existing housing stock; connect renters with available housing
- > Skills exchange to create housing: BCIT students to help build suites, green buildings and rental housing
- > Amenities inventory: use existing spaces, community gardens to share food and flowers; shared backyard space; school bikes that can be borrowed

Engage in Community

- > Facilitate unique ways of engagement: short-term programs like drop-ins for youth; address people's lack of time; focus on fun, not issues (celebrations); engage youth and people at risk
- > Volunteers: recruit local volunteers such as bilingual retirees to translate for seniors; seek help from non-profit organizations such as churches
- > Environment: Awareness* and programs like community clean-ups, environmental clubs and student-run organic gardens are needed to ensure lanes, sidewalks and the Renfrew Ravine are clean and safe*, and beautiful so people don't dump
- > Business community: encourage big boxes to provide local jobs and support local organizations with donations of food and program materials

SECONDARY IDEAS

Increasing awareness* (through info distribution, website, marketing, community leaders), overcoming the language barrier (e.g., for Chinese seniors seeing doctors) and outreach (e.g., for children/family development) are ways to **improve access** to local programs and services. Children and schools are access points for newcomers to learn about Canadian life. It's important to have staff speak residents' languages.

Make newcomers feel welcome through federal welcome packages, local access to services and information about local amenities.

Put our voices together to **work with government and other organizations**. Get people organized around common interests to encourage dialogue with city council, Skytrain officials and developers on such issues as housing and transportation. We also need to support our community policing office and encourage small-scale local initiatives such as Block Watch.

CHALLENGES

Safety*, access to transportation (**mobility***) and **awareness*** of programs and services are challenges. We need incentives for volunteering, more information on recreation and more street life on Kingsway.

We need **housing** options like sustainable housing, rooftop gardening, green buildings integrated with affordable spaces for community groups.

Weak social **connections*** and cultural differences mean we don't know our neighbours. Newcomers feel trapped.

3 of 6

An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >



PRIMARY IDEAS

Residents took the term “development” to mean three different yet connected themes: housing developments, economic development and community development.

Housing

- > New housing development integrated with retail space, such as restaurants/cafes, and gathering spaces offer more safety*
- > Townhouses at grade level and apartments on top with community gardens
- > Use more expensive units to subsidize lower-priced units or use commercial rent to subsidize housing
- > First floor open to the street, possibly with high basements for younger generations; mid-rise, 8–12 stories—concrete with green technology
- > Build the amenities with new housing
- > Higher density is an opportunity; options include live/work units and laneway housing
- > Housing that can grow over time; flexible housing
- > Self-build options—semi-finished instead of completely done
- > Turn grow ops into social housing

Economic

- > Markets: Collingwood Night Market concept similar to Richmond night market, close off Kingsway from Joyce to Tyne. Involve merchants and sponsors. Sample food on streets, live music and performances, talent show (high school students), craft sales; use space under Skytrain for farmers market and other weekly events, stores, kiosks; flea market; pocket markets e.g., Norquay Park
- > Create partnerships that attract businesses for a more stable (safe) local economy. Need partnerships with local businesses, agencies, government
- > Attract shops like postal outlets, pubs, cafes
- > Promote diversity of ethnic shops to locals and to communities elsewhere
- > Add coffee shop, kiosk to park (Slocan) so you can have coffee and tea and watch the kids play
- > Arts/culture: Hiring and valuing artists; living affordability for artists; support cafes with live music, weekly family-oriented, multicultural craft sales with homemade wine, arts, food
- > Sustainable social enterprises: Rent out parking for cars and bikes; sell our ideas on community development to other organizations
- > Identify micro-climate for mushroom growing

Community

- > History: Change heritage designations date—preserve older homes; community artwork and historical photography facilitates community connectedness; use the history of the area to bring residents together
- > Environment: Reintroduce native plants, wild flowers; work with local businesses and organizations to help restore streams; get BIA to enforce cleanliness of commercial and residential lanes. Next capital plan lobby for funding for salaried coordinator for Renfrew Ravine
- > Use blank lands: under Skytrain; work with city to access city-owned lots; garbage is dumped on empty lots and draw problems
- > Leadership: initiatives to draw out people from different cultural backgrounds to join community activities
- > Look to other organizations to provide role that churches used to—what is your passion?
- > Tap into volunteers to run programs
- > Newcomers: Lobby federal government to take responsibility for supplying welcome packages for new immigrants; encourage newcomers to volunteer to help out in communities through Cultural Connectors
- > Recreation: Approach city for funding for new fitness/recreation centre
- > Put city/government services in neighbourhoods. Have staff available and accessible locally
- > Organize, communicate and market festivals

CHALLENGES

There is increased density, but no new **amenities***, lots of housing but no new retail space. Shops are concentrated on Kingsway, not spread out.

Streets, shopping districts not pretty. Kingsway needs to be beautified and promoted through nicer street lights, banners, creative tree grates and decorated manholes.

Housing is a challenge: affordable housing, rentals, homeless housing and transition with support, transition to market housing.

Renfrew Ravine **volunteer** burnout is a problem. We need a staff person.

We need to enforce existing permeability **bylaws** so yards aren't paved under.

4 of 6

An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >



PRIMARY IDEAS

Residents want to move safely* inside and outside the local community using environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

To go outside the community, they prefer public transit, but are concerned about Skytrain safety. Bicycles, shuttle buses and walking are desired options for moving within the community.

Residents would like less emphasis on driving cars and more emphasis on accessing local shops and amenities* such as community centres, thereby supporting the local economy.

Public Transit

To make use of public transit, residents need to feel safe at Skytrain stations, particularly at quiet stations and during off-peak hours. Ideas include:

- > video cameras at Skytrain and bus stations
- > covered facilities underneath the Skytrain line
- > a city square in front of stations
- > landscaping/greening around stations/under lines

Committees making connections* with Translink authorities will address safety and issues such as:

- > equipping transit better for physical ability and bikes
- > getting rid of the zone system so that it's one fare from Vancouver/Burnaby/New West/Surrey
- > making the Translink website more user friendly
- > developing higher-speed Skytrain

Bicycle

Residents cite the need to create scenic bike routes to make riding safer, attract bicyclists and promote a cycling culture. Among the bicycling ideas are:

- > a cycle club, free cycling courses, school bike program to teach kids how to fix/ride bikes and school bikes that can be borrowed
- > bike posts on streets like Kingsway, fingerprint locks, bike cage at CNH, bikes locked at Skytrain stations that are available to the public
- > a bicycle festival

Shuttle Buses

Shuttle buses doing local routes at off-peak hours, more often, will connect residents to local shops, discourage local driving and help the local economy. It's important to review the frequency and size of current buses.

Examples of shuttle services are:

- > a loop from Renfrew Park Community Centre to Joyce Street
- > a 5-minute shuttle from Kootenay Street to Knight Street Bridge
- > the bus link from New Westminster Quay to Uptown

Walking

Making our streets safe and pedestrian-friendly is important to getting around locally. Ideas include:

- > clean and safe sidewalks, including domestic assistance to clear snow and leaves for seniors
- > pedestrian-controlled crosswalks to cross busy streets like Kingsway and Grandview
- > more/better lighting and improved landscaping
- > more police patrolling and humans around
- > turning streets into semi-parks and into shared streets with pedestrian and play-oriented spaces

SECONDARY IDEAS

There are secondary ideas to **reduce car use** by linking Collingwood Days with car-free day and shutting down Kingsway, making streets less car-oriented (e.g., make Vanness a greenway, shared street with traffic calming) and increasing paid parking and traffic circles.

Seniors expressed the need to **live close** to local amenities and recreation programs as a way to encourage independence.

CHALLENGES

Safety*, **transportation** and **use of public greenways** are key mobility challenges.

We need more crosswalks to overcome pedestrian-unfriendly streets (Kingsway, Grandview) and safer sidewalks to prevent seniors from falling.

Transportation needs to be more accessible and we need to bridge the awareness gap between those who drive and those who bike. There is too much traffic, too many parking lots and not enough on-street parking.

The promised amenities along the BC Parkway haven't been built. Those that were supplied require maintenance and the public needs to have a say on how to use them and make them safe, e.g., use public greenways for community gardens.

5 of 6

An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >



PRIMARY IDEAS

Residents are concerned about walking safely around the neighbourhood, increasing amenities* for roadway safety and creating awareness* of and connecting* people to community safety resources.

Safety in Public Spaces

More activity and gathering places will increase the number of people in public spaces, thereby increasing safety. Ideas include:

- > a park shelter with lights to allow people to feel safe and exchange conversation
- > organized activities to make parks safer for kids

Walking tours through the Renfrew Ravine and to local shops and historical buildings, and community walks (BC Parkway, joining parks with facilities) serve to:

- > provide clear and safe routes
- > increase pedestrian traffic
- > encourage us to enjoy nature
- > help the local economy

Amenities* such as improved lighting and landscaping increase safety, as does police patrols and the Crime Prevention Centre. Skytrain and bus stations need to be safer, e.g., using video cameras and a payment system to deter drug addicts and thieves. More personnel are needed to show passengers how to buy tickets.

A clean environment = a safe environment for us to walk comfortably around the community (mobility*). This means clean lanes and sidewalks, snow clearing, litter pick-up campaigns and no graffiti. The Renfrew Ravine can benefit from community cleanups, water cleaning, a green lane and a boardwalk.

Roadway Safety

Pedestrian- and bike-friendly road amenities are key components of roadway safety, which is strongly linked to mobility*. Ideas include:

- > pedestrian-controlled crosswalks to cross Kingsway; crosswalks for seniors
- > bike routes, bike posts, Skytrain stations equipped with locked bikes available to the public, revenue-generating bike cage at the neighbourhood house
- > shuttle buses

Safety Awareness

Information distribution and education creates awareness* of the safety resources in the community and where we can go for help. Ideas include:

- > self-defense awareness
- > presentations to help people recognize gang activity in places like schools and seniors centres
- > a helpline for social safety issues and where to find services

Connecting* people helps to engage those at risk and reduce individual isolation. Ideas include:

- > promoting small localized initiatives like Block Watch by going door-to-door
- > activities to build community, e.g., sports or dance competitions, field trips
- > outreach workers for child/family development
- > safe places to go for youth and seniors that are within walking distance (mobility*)

SECONDARY IDEAS

A mix of market and affordable housing in a complex where seniors, families and pets live helps us learn to respect and honour people of all ages.

We should integrate new housing development* with retail space, restaurants/cafes and gathering spaces and develop partnerships to attract businesses. Houses used illegally should be seized and made into affordable housing.

Ideas came forward to use fingerprint locks and fences to address safety* of apartment blocks and community gardens.

To help the environment, cut down on car idling around schools and public places, which reduces noise and pollution, and ban plastic bags.

CHALLENGES

Illegal activity such as drug dealing around Skytrain and the Renfrew Ravine, drug use/prostitution, property crime, domestic abuse and youth gangs make people feel unsafe. We also feel unsafe after dark off the main roads and paths such as the BC parkway, which is not well lit. Seniors would like more crosswalks and safe sidewalks to prevent falls and would like help removing snow and raking leaves.

We need to make the water and creek safer in the Renfrew Ravine and the landscaping safer around Skytrain, which also has rodent problems.

Making social connections* is slow when there is a large, sudden population growth. Strangers are seen to be hanging around and fighting.

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An asterisk (*) tells you the idea is interconnected to one of these categories:

< CONNECTIONS > < MOBILITY > < AWARENESS > < AMENITIES > < SAFETY > < DEVELOPMENT >

Appendix D
Recommendations for Specific Parks
In Renfrew-Collingwood
(To be completed shortly)

DRAFT