



# OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN Annual Review 2012

#### Publishing Information

**Title:** City of Victoria Official Community Plan – 2012 Annual Review  
**Prepared By:** City of Victoria – Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department  
Community Planning Division  
December 2013

#### For More Information

**Contact Details:** City of Victoria  
Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department – Community Planning Division  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6  
E [communityplanning@victoria.ca](mailto:communityplanning@victoria.ca)  
T 250.361.0382  
[www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)

# Table of Contents

## OCP Annual Review 2012

Introduction.....	3
Victoria's Official Community Plan .....	4
Targets.....	5
Monitoring the Official Community Plan .....	6
Implementation Progress.....	8
Trends and Issues .....	9

## OCP Indicators ..... 10

Methodology.....	10
1 New Housing Units.....	11
2 Share of New Housing Units in Growth Target Areas.....	13
3 Regional Share of New Housing Units .....	15
4 New Commercial and Industrial Space .....	16
5 Greenways Network .....	17
6 Sidewalk Network.....	19
7 Cycling Network.....	20
8 Underground Infrastructure.....	22
9 Activities in Public Space.....	23
10 New Trees on City Land .....	24
11 New Housing Units by Tenure.....	25
12 New Housing Units by Type.....	27
13 Rental Housing Vacancy Rate.....	29
14 Emergency Shelter Use .....	30
15 Retail, Office and Industrial Vacancies .....	31
16 OCP Amendments .....	32
17 Contributions from Development .....	33

## Appendix A: Proposed Five-Year OCP Indicators ..... 34



## Introduction

The purpose of the Official Community Plan (OCP) Annual Review is to provide an annual snapshot of progress towards achieving the OCP. The OCP Annual Review 2012 presents key indicators related to the OCP and provides a baseline against which progress can be measured in future years. Beginning in 2014, the Annual Review will also include the status of the actions listed in the OCP Implementation Strategy. The Annual Review will be used to help identify emerging trends and issues that may have an impact on the OCP and to inform potential changes to the OCP and other policies, plans or practices.

The indicators in the Annual Review are focused primarily on land management and development, and are limited to those where data is available on an annual basis. A more comprehensive monitoring report will be produced approximately every five years, as resources allow, and provide a more complete review of progress towards achieving the OCP. These reports will feature an extensive list of indicators, covering all topics in the OCP.

Sections 22 and 23 of the OCP provide guidance for the development of the OCP monitoring program and the preparation of regular OCP status reports.



# Victoria's Official Community Plan

## BACKGROUND

An Official Community Plan (OCP) is one of the most important guiding bylaws for a community. Victoria's current Official Community Plan was adopted by Council in July 2012 after two and a half years of public consultation with more than 6,000 people. The City's previous plan was last updated in 1995.

Guided by the Local Government Act, an OCP is a set of high-level objectives and policies that guide land use planning; social, economic and environmental policies; and civic infrastructure investments. Victoria's OCP provides direction for growth and change over the next 30 years, guiding Victoria to become a more sustainable community. Victoria's OCP encourages a strong downtown core and a network of vibrant walkable villages and town centres. It also emphasizes sustainable transportation and a greater range of housing options.

## RELATIONSHIP TO THE OCP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The OCP Implementation Strategy, approved by City Council in September 2013, identifies 174 different actions to achieve the OCP. For each action, the OCP Implementation Strategy lists the responsibility, funding status, timeframe and how it supports other corporate priorities. The OCP Annual Review will present the status of implementation actions and report on any changes that might prompt changes to the OCP Implementation Strategy.



# Targets

The following list presents those targets identified in the OCP, along with the frequency with which their progress can be measured:

## LAND MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

› Victoria accommodates a minimum of 20,000 additional residents from 2011 to 2041	Measured every 5 years
› The Urban Core accommodates a minimum of 10,000 additional residents from 2011 to 2041	Measured every 5 years
› Victoria accommodates a minimum of 20% of the region's cumulative new housing units to 2041	Measured annually
› The Urban Core accommodates a minimum of 10% of the region's cumulative new housing units to 2041	Measured annually
› A minimum 90% of all housing units are within 400 metres of either the Urban Core, a Town Centre or an Urban Village by 2041	Measured every 5 years

## TRANSPORTATION

› At least 70% of journey to work trips by Victoria residents take place by walking, cycling and public transit by 2041	Measured every 5 years
› A minimum of 60% of all trips by Victoria residents take place by walking, cycling and public transit by 2041	Measured every 5 years
› A minimum of 99% of Victoria residents live within 400 metres of a transit stop by 2041	Measured every 5 years

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

› Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by a minimum of 33% below the 2007 levels, by 2020	Measured every 5 years
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------

## ECONOMY

› Victoria accommodates a minimum of 20% of the region's new employment by 2041	Measured every 5 years
› Victoria's employment has increased by a minimum of 10,000 jobs by 2041	Measured every 5 years

## FOOD SYSTEMS

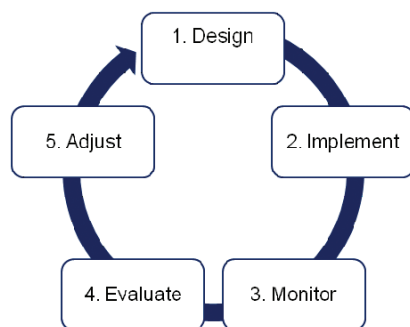
› A minimum of 90% of residents are within 400 metres of a full service grocery store by 2041	Measured every 5 years
› All organic food waste generated within Victoria is diverted from the regional landfill by 2041	Measured every 5 years

# Monitoring the Official Community Plan

## OVERVIEW

A community's ability to prepare and respond to change is an indication of its resiliency and sustainability. The OCP is based on an adaptive management approach, where an institution learns from implementation successes and failures in order to improve subsequent policies and actions over time. A regular system of review, monitoring and adjustment will measure progress towards achieving the OCP's long-term goals and objectives and ensure that the OCP responds to emerging trends, issues, and opportunities.

## OCP ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK



Source: Policy 22.1, City of Victoria Official Community Plan, 2012

## MONITORING REPORTS

The OCP Monitoring Program will produce two different reports\*:

1. An Annual Review, presenting a snapshot of implementation progress and reporting on key annual indicators
2. A Five-Year Monitoring Report containing a comprehensive set of indicators and evaluation of implementation progress

## INDICATOR CRITERIA

The OCP monitoring program collects data for nearly 100 indicators. Seventeen of these indicators are measured on an annual basis with the remaining indicators measured approximately every five years. The list of indicators will be reviewed regularly. New indicators may be added and others may be adjusted or removed.

The indicators were selected with close attention to existing City monitoring initiatives. The final indicators were chosen based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description
Meaningful	Does the indicator provide useful and relevant information about reaching OCP goals and objectives?
Readily available	Is the data needed to measure the indicator readily available? If not, can a new system to measure the indicator be easily set up? Is the indicator reported on a regular basis?
Outcome-oriented	Does the indicator measure results and not just the resources invested?
Reliable	Are the methods used to measure the indicator standardized and reliable? Is the data of a good quality?
Accepted	Is the indicator seen by other municipalities as a valid, reliable and verifiable measure?
Spatial	If possible, is the indicator spatially-oriented and able to be mapped?

\*OCP policies 22.3, 22.7, 22.9, 23.1 – 23.8 provide more detailed guidance for the OCP Monitoring Program and reporting.



## ANNUAL INDICATORS

The following indicators will be measured on an annual basis and reported in the OCP Annual Review:

OCP Section	Annual OCP Indicators
Land Management and Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New housing units</li> <li>2. Share of new housing units in growth target areas</li> <li>3. Regional share of new housing units</li> <li>4. New commercial and industrial space in target areas</li> </ol>
Transportation and Mobility	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Improvements to Greenways network</li> <li>6. Improvements to sidewalk network</li> <li>7. Improvements to cycling network</li> </ol>
Placemaking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Activities in public spaces</li> </ol>
Parks and Recreation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. New trees on City lands</li> </ol>
Infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Improvements to underground infrastructure</li> </ol>
Housing and Homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. New housing units by tenure</li> <li>12. New housing units by type</li> <li>13. Rental housing vacancy rate</li> <li>14. Emergency shelter use</li> </ol>
Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Retail, office and industrial vacancies</li> </ol>
Plan Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16. Official Community Plan amendments</li> <li>17. Contributions from development</li> </ol>

## FIVE-YEAR INDICATORS

The OCP Five-Year Monitoring Report will include indicators that cover all topic areas in the OCP. The final selection of five-year indicators will be based on resource availability and the quality of the data. For a list of proposed five-year indicators, see Appendix A.

# Implementation Progress

## SUMMARY OF 2012 – 2013 ACTIVITIES

Victoria City Council adopted the OCP on July 30, 2012. Over the last 16 months, the focus has shifted from creating the OCP to setting the stage for its implementation over the next 30 years. The tasks over the last year have included developing an Implementation Strategy, a monitoring program, bringing existing plans into alignment with OCP policies, and identifying various OCP amendments.

### Major Activities:

- › Development of OCP Implementation Strategy and approval by Council
- › Development of an OCP Monitoring Program and Indicators
- › Preparation of proposed 2012 OCP Annual Review
- › Proposed amendments to Local Area Plans for alignment with OCP (forthcoming)
- › Proposed Development Approval Information Area Bylaw (forthcoming)
- › Proposed administrative amendments to the OCP's Development Permit Areas and Heritage Conservation Areas (forthcoming)

## STATUS OF OCP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

In future years, this section will review progress towards achieving the OCP Implementation Strategy. The status of each implementation action will be reported in this section.



# Trends and Issues

One of the objectives of the Annual Review is to identify observable trends from the findings of the monitoring program. The Annual Review also aims to recognize other emerging issues, new knowledge and information that may be relevant to the implementation of the OCP. This information will be used to review and update relevant policies and practices in a coordinated and timely manner.

## KEY MONITORING FINDINGS

The Annual Review 2012 presents a baseline set of information. As a result most OCP indicators do not yet show conclusive trends. In future years this section will summarize key findings from the monitoring of OCP indicators.

## EMERGING TRENDS AND ISSUES

In future years this section will provide a summary of any emerging trends, issues or new information that may have an impact on the implementation and success of the OCP.



# OCP Indicators

## 2012: THE BASELINE YEAR

The OCP was adopted in 2012, making it the baseline year for the OCP Monitoring Program. Over time, the OCP indicators will help measure progress towards achieving the OCP goals, objectives and targets. The monitoring results in each subsequent Annual Review will be measured against the 2012 baseline.

The indicators presented in this report are based on data for the 2012 calendar year, except where noted. Results from earlier years were included for some indicators where the data was available. In many cases, this data was not available and it will be several years before conclusive trends can be determined.

Many of the OCP indicators in this report are being measured for the first time. This has meant finding reliable data sources and developing standard methods to collect and analyze the data. The monitoring methods for some indicators are still under development and these results will be reported in future OCP Annual Reviews. Those annual indicators are shown in the table at right.

## METHODOLOGY

A brief methodology that describes how the data for each annual indicator was collected, measured and analyzed is under development and will be available through the City of Victoria's website. This will provide a standard approach to measuring each indicator over time.

Annual Indicators Under Development	
Indicator	Details
1. New housing units	Will be expanded to include new housing units completed, through Development Database Project (2014–15)
2. Share new housing units located within target areas	Will be expanded to include new housing units completed, through Development Database Project (2014–15)
3. Regional share of new housing units	Will be expanded to include new housing units completed, through Development Database Project (2014–15)
5. New commercial and industrial space in target areas	Under development, as part of Development Database Project (2014–15)
6. Greenways network	Will be expanded in the future to measure the percentage of the Greenways network that is complete.
7. Sidewalk network	Will be expanded in the future to measure the percentage of City blocks that have a sidewalk.
9. New trees on City lands	Will be expanded in 2014 to measure the total number of trees on City land and include a map based on the new City of Victoria Tree Inventory.
10. New housing units by tenure	Will be expanded to include new housing units completed, through Development Database Project (2014–15)
11. New housing units by structure type	Will be expanded to include new housing units completed, through Development Database Project (2014–15)
16. Contributions from development	Under development, as part of Development Database Project (2014–15)

# 1 New Housing Units

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the number and geographic distribution of net new housing units approved in the City of Victoria. Net new housing units are calculated by subtracting the number of housing units demolished from the number of new housing units approved by building permit.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

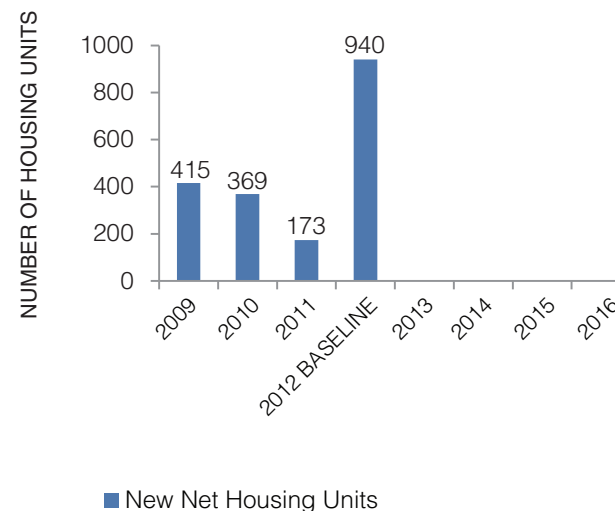
Victoria is anticipated to grow by a minimum of 20,000 people over the next 30 years. This indicator measures how well the new housing supply is meeting the projected demand.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

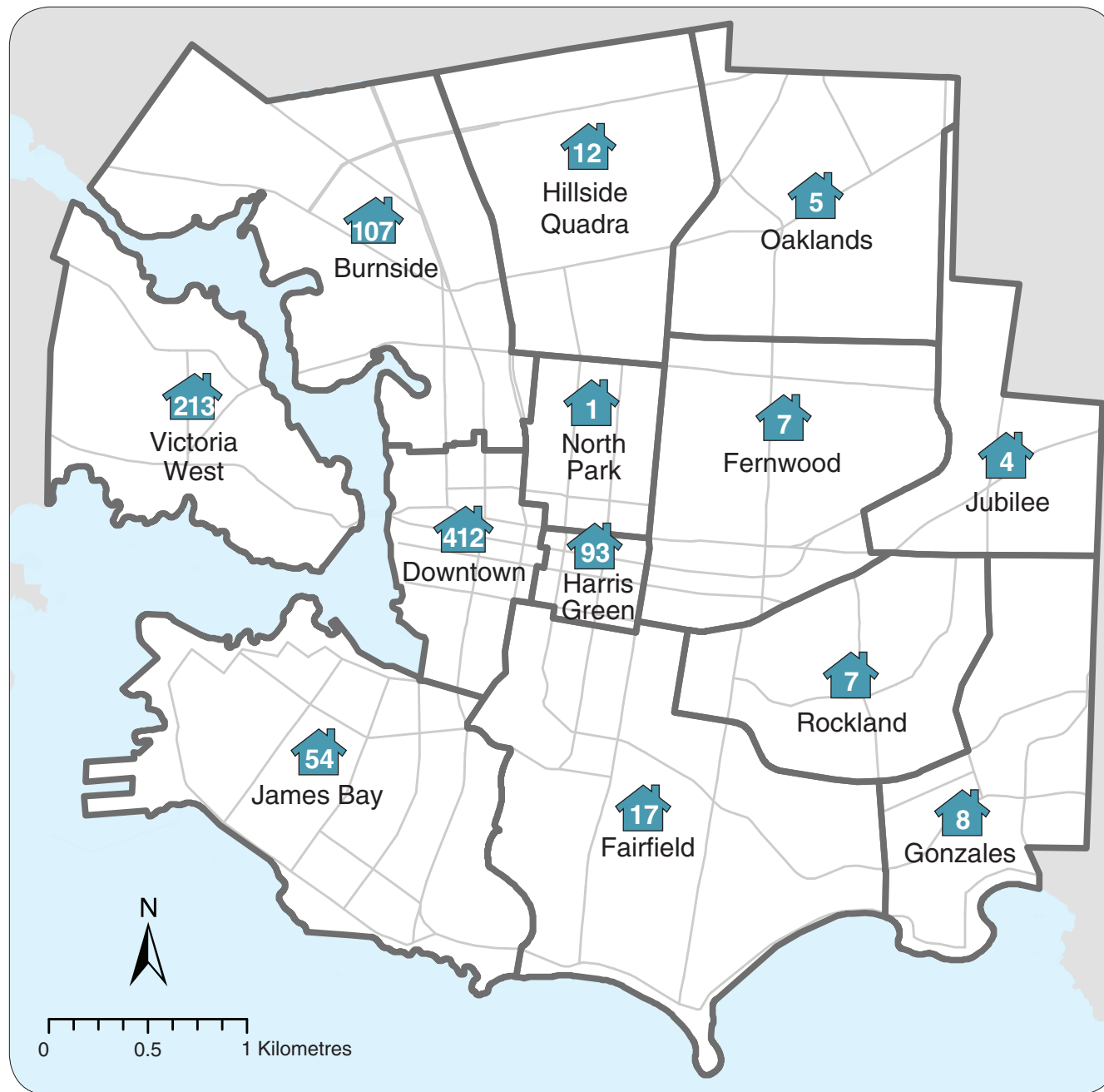
## HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2012, a total of 975 new units were approved and 35 units were demolished, for a total of 940 net new housing units. The majority of housing units are being built Downtown, followed by Victoria West. North Park had the least amount of new housing activity (MAP 1).

Net New Housing Units Approved in the City of Victoria



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2009-2012



MAP 1:

## Net New Housing Units Approved by Neighbourhood

2012 Total Net New Housing Units Approved in Victoria = 940

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012



# Share of New Housing Units in Growth Target Areas

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the annual share of new housing units located in the OCP's growth target areas. Housing growth is measured in three different target areas:

- 1) the Urban Core
- 2) located in or within walking distance (400 m) of a Town Centre or Large Urban Village
- 3) Small Urban Villages and the remainder of residential areas

Housing units are calculated from approved building permits, and categorized by OCP Urban Place Designation.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

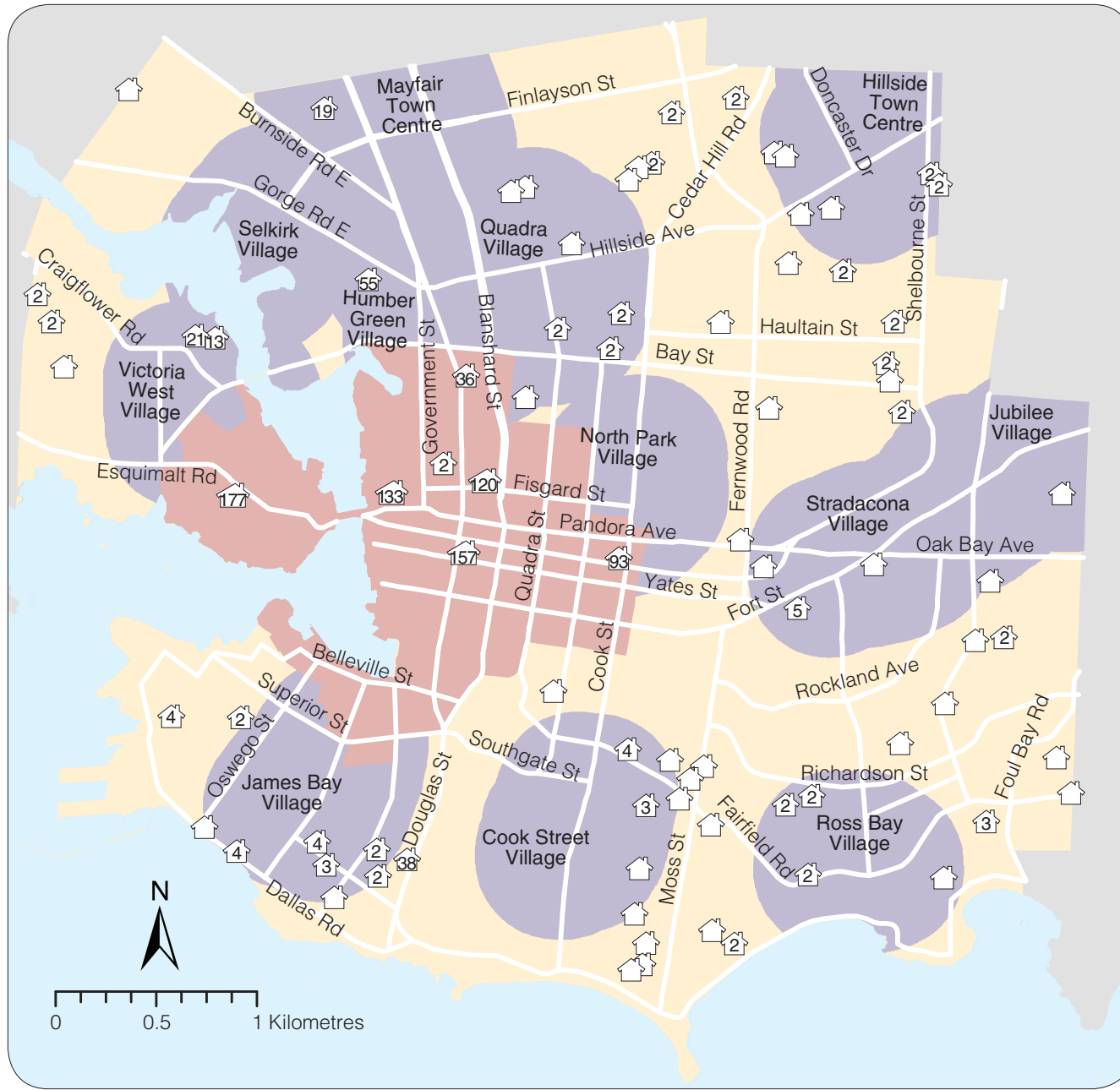
The OCP designates certain areas of the city for accommodating new population and associated housing growth. The Urban Core should accommodate 50% of the population growth, and areas in and near Town Centres and Large Urban Villages should accommodate 40% of the growth. Remaining growth is targeted for Small Urban Villages and other residential areas (10%). Concentrating housing and population growth in certain areas can provide the critical population mass to support better transit, local businesses, more efficient use of infrastructure, and better use of cycling and pedestrian facilities. It also reduces pressure on other residential parts of Victoria, where change is less desirable. A large share of Victoria's housing growth will be concentrated downtown to support the development of a strong urban core that retains its predominant role in the regional economy.

## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

- › To accommodate at least 20,000 new residents and associated housing growth over the next 30 years in the following approximate proportions: 50% in the Urban Core; 40% in or within close walking distance of Town Centres and Large Urban Villages; and 10% in Small Urban Villages and the remainder of residential areas

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Of the new units approved in 2012, 73% were located in the Urban Core; 17% were located in or within walking distance of a Town Centre or Large Urban Village; and 10% were located in a Small Urban Village or the remainder of residential areas (MAP 2).



MAP 2:

### New Housing Units Approved in Target Growth Areas

- New Housing Unit (single unit)
- New Housing Unit (# of units)
- Urban Core – 718 units (73%)
- 400m walking distance from Town Centres/Large Urban Villages 162 units (17%)
- Small Urban Villages and remainder of the City – 98 units (10%)

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012



## 3 Regional Share of New Housing Units

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the annual share of new housing units throughout the capital region that are located in the City of Victoria. It shows the share of the regional total that was approved in: 1) the City of Victoria as a whole, and 2) Victoria's Urban Core. New units are calculated from building permit records.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

An increased share of new housing units within Victoria's Urban Core has potential impacts for the whole region: more efficient use of infrastructure and facilities, better access to transit services, decreased air pollution, less reliance on car travel, and less development pressure on agricultural and other rural lands. Within Victoria, encouraging new housing growth within the Urban Core will support the economic vibrancy of downtown and ensure that it retains its predominant role in the regional economy.

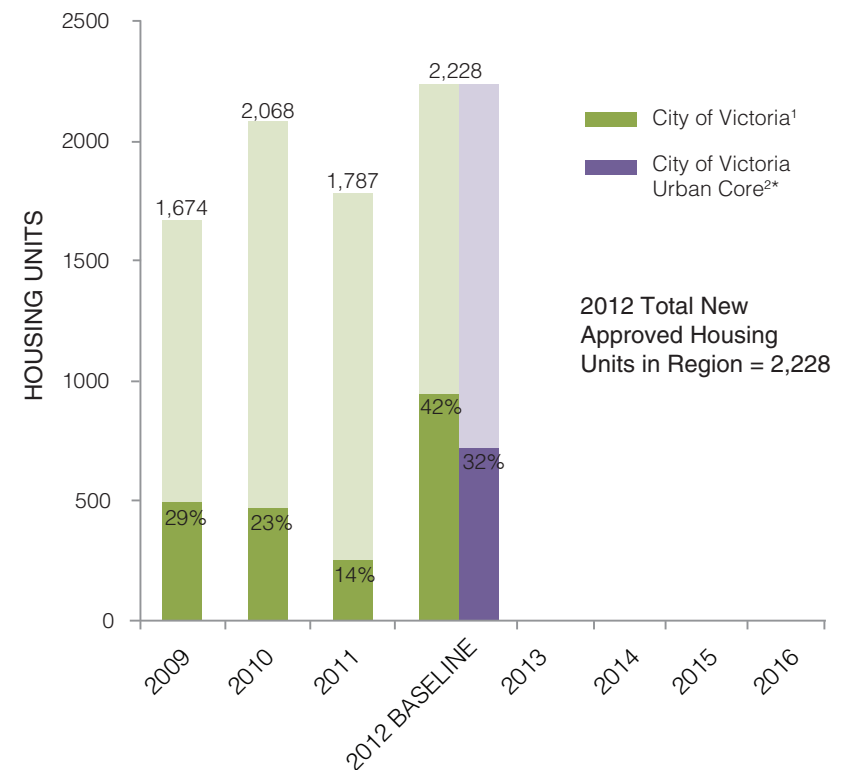
### TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

- › Victoria accommodates a minimum of 20% of the region's cumulative new housing units to 2041
- › The Urban Core accommodates a minimum of 10% of the region's cumulative new housing units to 2041

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2012, 42% of new units in the capital region were approved within the City of Victoria; 32% of the new units in the capital region were approved within Victoria's Urban Core.

Annual Share of New Regional Housing Units Approved in the City of Victoria



SOURCE: CRD QUARTERLY BUILDING PERMIT REPORTS, 2009-2012<sup>1</sup>  
CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012<sup>2</sup>

\* % new units in Urban Core was not measured prior to 2012

## 4 New Commercial and Industrial Space

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator will measure the amount of new commercial and industrial floor area that is approved on an annual basis.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

A strong economic base is an essential component of a complete community. A diverse economy, including industrial, commercial and office sectors, not only provides increased stability, but also offers citizens the opportunity to access goods and services locally. The OCP focuses new employment growth in the Urban Core, Town Centres, in employment districts and along corridors served by frequent and rapid transit. New office development will be concentrated downtown to support the development of a strong downtown core that retains its predominant role in the regional economy. Outside of downtown, the concentration of employment growth in certain areas will maximize the use of municipal infrastructure, develop densities that allow for district energy, reduce commercial traffic, as well as increase the use of public transit by employees. Concentrating new employment growth in certain areas will also preserve the traditional residential character of other parts of the city.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

Data collection methods for this indicator are under development.

## 5 Greenways Network

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the length of the Greenways network that is added or receives major upgrades on an annual basis. It also measures the total length of Greenways that have been added or upgraded since the inception of the Greenways Plan in 2004. This indicator will be expanded in the future to measure the percentage of the identified Greenways network that has been completed.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

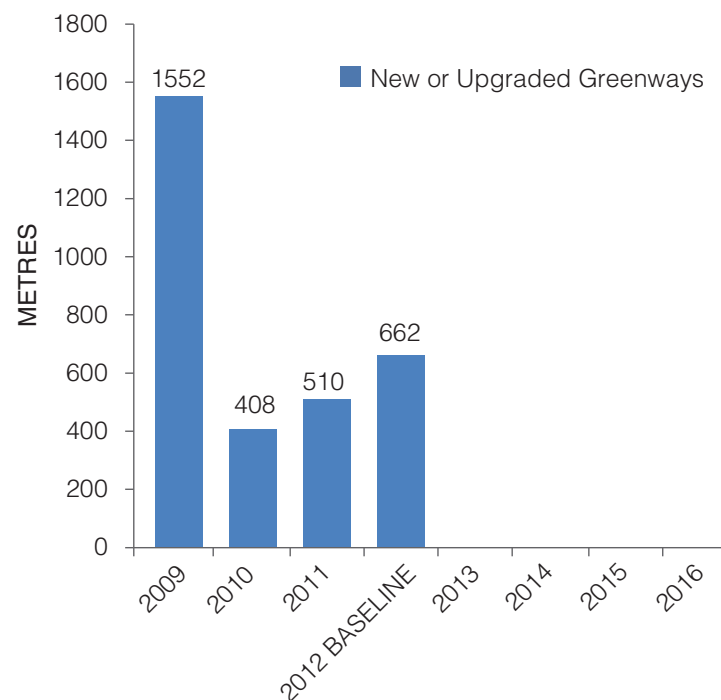
Victoria's Greenways network encourages active transportation, recreation, and the restoration of native and aquatic habitat and places of cultural importance. The OCP encourages completing the Greenways network to the standards in the Greenways Plan, including features such as street trees and wayfinding. The OCP also supports using the Greenways network to link the Urban Core, Town Centres and Urban Villages with common destinations such as major parks, places of employment, schools, and recreational and cultural attractions.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The total length the identified Greenways network measures 99.6 kilometres (MAP 3). A total of 662 metres of the Greenways network was added or upgraded in 2012. Since 2004, a total of 8.3 kilometres have been added or upgraded.

Annual Greenways Network Improvements



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013



**MAP 3:**  
**Improvements to  
 Greenways Network  
 (2004 – 2012)**

- █ Greenway Improvements
- █ Designated Greenway

Length of new or major upgrades to Greenways network – 8.3 km

Total length of identified Greenways network (2012) – 99.6 km

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013

## 6 Sidewalk Network

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the length of the sidewalk network that is added or receives major upgrades on an annual basis. It also measures the total length of sidewalks that have been added or upgraded since the inception of the Pedestrian Master Plan in 2009. New sidewalks are added where no sidewalk existed previously; a major upgrade includes work such as widening the sidewalk or making other improvements for pedestrians. The indicator will be expanded in the future to measure the percentage of City blocks that have a sidewalk.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

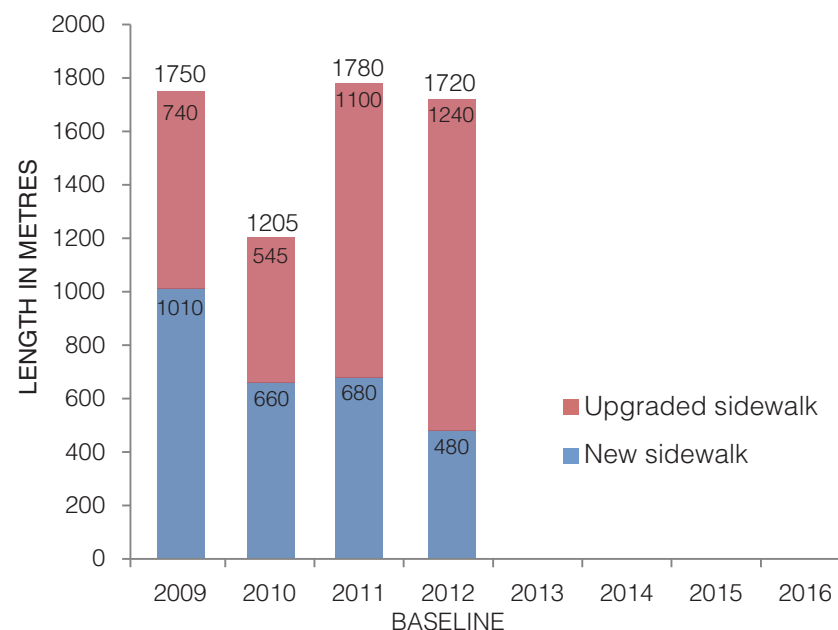
Creating walkable, pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods is a central focus of Victoria's OCP. Pedestrians are the top priority in future transportation planning. Walkability has many benefits for air quality, the reduction of greenhouse gases, public health and the life and vitality of neighbourhoods. A continuous, high quality sidewalk network is important in making a street comfortable, safe and inviting for pedestrians.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The total length of the designated sidewalk network is approximately 525 linear kilometres. In 2012, 0.48 kilometres of new sidewalks and 1.24 kilometres of upgraded sidewalks were added to Victoria's sidewalk network, for a total of 1.72 linear kilometres. The total annual amount of new or upgraded sidewalks has remained fairly constant in three of the last four years.

### Annual Sidewalk Network Improvements



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013

Total length of identified sidewalk network (2012): approx. 525 km  
 Total length of completed sidewalk network (2012): 463 km  
 Length of new or major upgrades to sidewalk network (2009–2012): 6.46 km

## 7 Cycling Network

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the length of the cycling infrastructure that is added or receives major upgrades on an annual basis. It also measures the total length of cycling infrastructure that has been added or upgraded since the inception of the Bicycle Master Plan in 1995. Cycling infrastructure includes off-street multi-user trails, on-street painted cycling lanes, on-street separated cycling lanes and on-street signed cycling routes.

### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

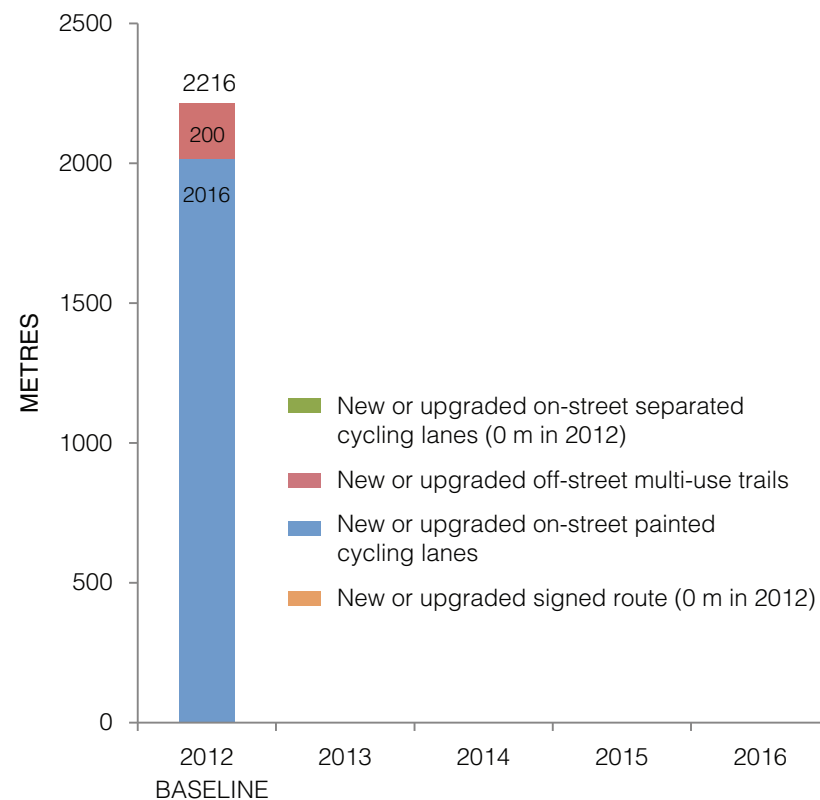
Victoria's compact size and mild climate make it well-suited for cycling, an efficient, low-impact mode of transportation. The OCP encourages the expansion of the cycling network and infrastructure such as bike lanes and bike parking in order to further increase the proportion of people making more sustainable transportation choices. Cycling lanes in particular can increase convenience and the perception of safety of cyclists, both of which contribute to increased ridership. Cycling routes that connect to shops, services and workplaces is an important feature in encouraging people to cycle on a regular basis.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

The total lane length of the designated cycling network is 134 kilometres (MAP 4). A total of 2.22 kilometres of on-street painted bicycle lanes and off-street multi-user trails were added or upgraded in 2012. No separated bicycle lanes currently exist within the City of Victoria.

### Annual Cycling Network Improvements



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013



**MAP 4:**  
**Improvements to Cycling Network (1995 – 2012)**

- Off-street multi-use trail
- On-street cycling lane
- Signed cycle route
- Designated network

Total lane length of off-street multi-use trail (2012): 4.4 km

Total lane length of improvements to on-street cycling lanes (2012): 35.9 km

Total length of signed cycling routes (2012): 41 km

Total lane length of designated cycling network (2012): 134 km

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013

# 8 Underground Infrastructure

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the length of water, stormwater and sanitary sewers mains that are replaced or rehabilitated on an annual basis. It also measures the total length of each network. Rehabilitation includes physical improvements such as the relining of pipes in order to extend the life of the infrastructure. This indicator will be expanded in the future to report on the percentage of underground infrastructure networks that are in need of replacement or rehabilitation.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Underground infrastructure for drinking water, storm and sanitary sewers are vital to the economic, environmental and public health of a community. The location, condition and capacity used in these systems can influence development patterns. Like many municipalities across the country, Victoria is challenged with repairing and replacing aging infrastructure, while meeting new population and employment growth over the next 30 years. The OCP encourages improvements to water, storm and sewer systems and services to meet current and future demand. At the same time, it identifies the need to continue to make physical improvements to existing infrastructure. The OCP focuses population and employment growth in the Urban Core, Town Centres and Urban Villages in order to make use of existing infrastructure, and minimize the need for new infrastructure.

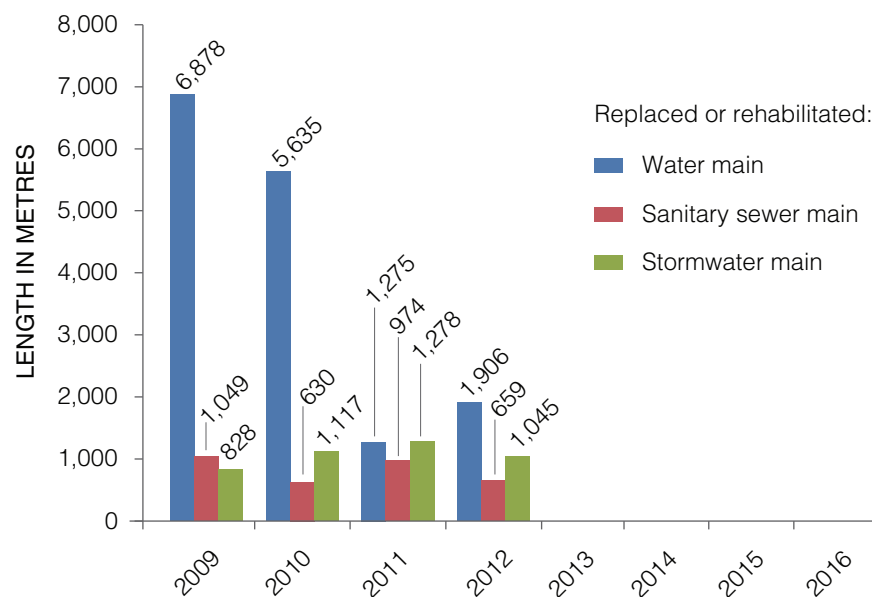
**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought\*

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The total length of the water main network is 330 kilometres. In 2012, 1,906 metres was replaced or rehabilitated. This represents a decrease from 2009 and 2010 when a significant amount of the steel water main was rehabilitated with the support of external funding. The sanitary sewer network measures 241 kilometres in length and the storm drain network measures 253 kilometres in length. The annual improvements for both have been fairly consistent over the last few years.

\*An increase is sought in the length of mains that are added or upgraded on an annual basis but, in keeping with OCP direction, not to the total length of the overall network.

### Annual Improvements to Water, Stormwater and Sewer Mains



Total length of water main network (2012): 330 km  
 Total length of sanitary sewer network (2012): 241 km  
 Total length of storm drain network (2012): 253 km

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013



## 9 Activities in Public Space

### WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the number of permits issued for a variety of activities that happen in outdoor and public spaces: markets, block parties, mobile food carts, sidewalk cafés, special events and street entertainers. Special events include festivals, sporting events, rallies and a variety of other public gatherings.

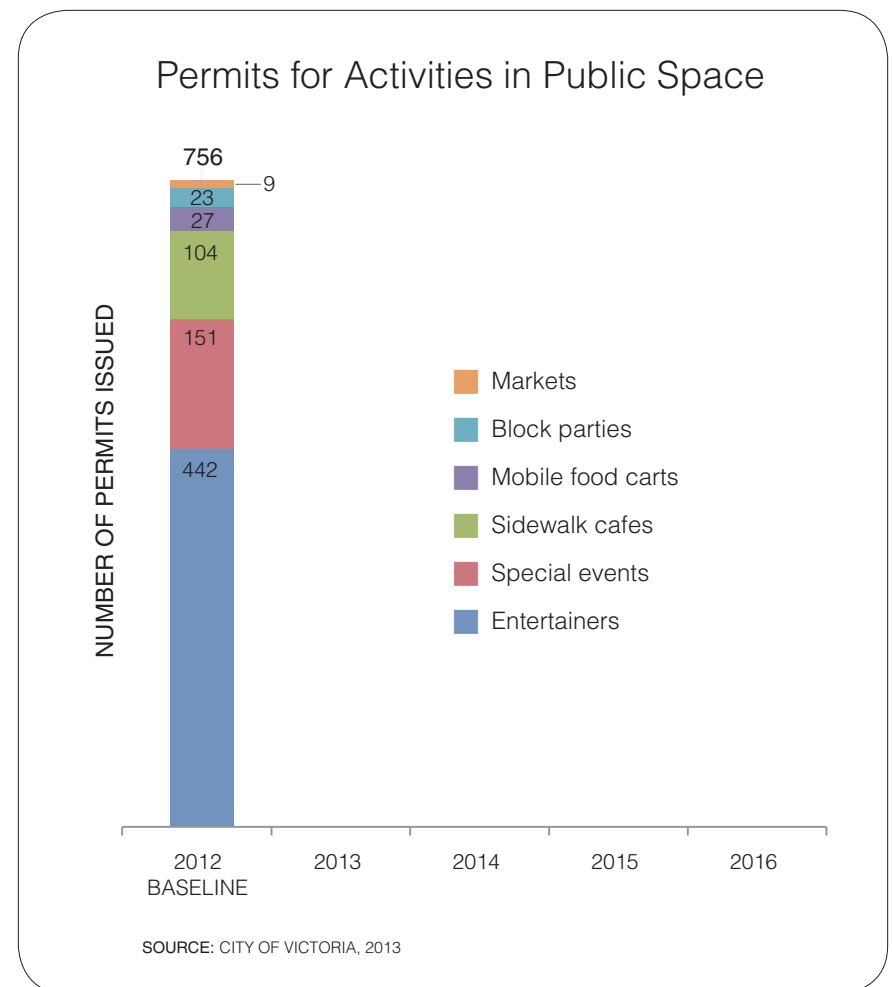
### WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Activities such as market, festivals and street vending help make streets and neighbourhoods lively and vibrant. They also generate economic activity, contribute to the city's arts and cultural life, reflect Victoria's unique identity, and help local residents feel more connected to each other. The OCP encourages more outdoor festivals, celebrations, concerts and special events to continue to animate the city's public spaces, streets and parks.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

### HOW ARE WE DOING?

A total of 756 permits were issued for different activities in public space in 2012. Of the total, 58% of the permits were issued for street entertainers (442) and 20% of the permits were issued for one of 151 different special events.



# 10 New Trees on City Land

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the number of net new trees planted on City lands on an annual basis (trees planted minus trees removed). City lands include parks, boulevards and other City-owned public spaces.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

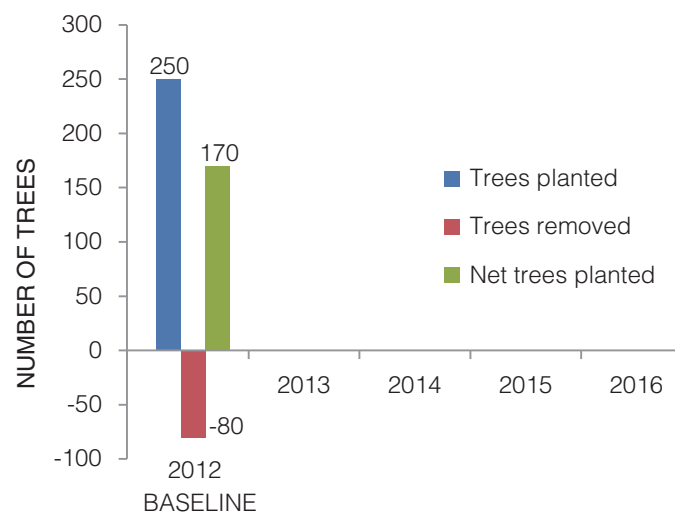
The urban forest provides many ecological and community benefits. Trees reduce stormwater runoff, filter air and water pollution, and provide important habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife. In addition to their beauty, trees protect people from weather, provide privacy and buffer sound. Trees add beauty to public spaces and along roads and sidewalks, making walking and cycling more enjoyable. The OCP aims to enhance the urban forest to continue to support the many benefits that an urban forest provides.

**TARGET/DESIRED TREND:**  increase sought

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2012, 250 trees were planted and 80 trees were removed, for a net total of 170 trees planted. In 2014, the indicator will be expanded to include the total number of trees on City lands.

Net New Trees Planted on City Land



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA, 2013

# 11 New Housing Units by Tenure

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the total number of new rental<sup>1</sup>, strata<sup>2</sup> and fee simple<sup>3</sup> housing units approved on an annual basis. It also measures the new housing units gained by tenure for each neighbourhood. New units are calculated using building permit information.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Providing a mix of rental and ownership (strata and fee simple) housing is important for building a diverse community. Providing options for rental and ownership housing within the same neighbourhood can accommodate people at a variety of life stages and income levels. The OCP encourages a wide range of housing types, tenures and prices in each neighbourhood. It also aims to maintain and expand Victoria's supply of aging rental housing through upgrades and regeneration.

## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Of the 975 new units that were approved in Victoria in 2012, 27% were identified as rental units. Of the units that were ownership-based, 70% were identified as strata units and 3% as fee simple housing units. Map 5 shows the distribution of new housing units by tenure across the city.

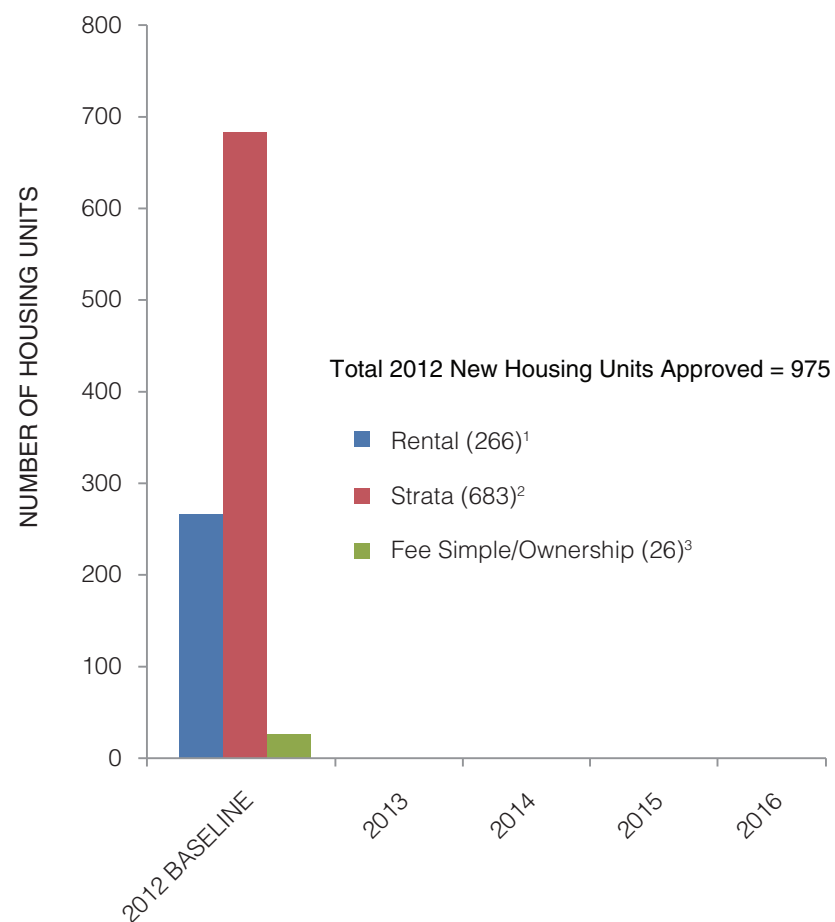
<sup>1</sup>Rental: includes purpose-built rental apartments, secondary suites, garden suites

<sup>2</sup>Strata: includes strata duplexes, triplexes and fourplexes; strata townhouses; strata units in apartment, mixed-used and other multi-unit buildings

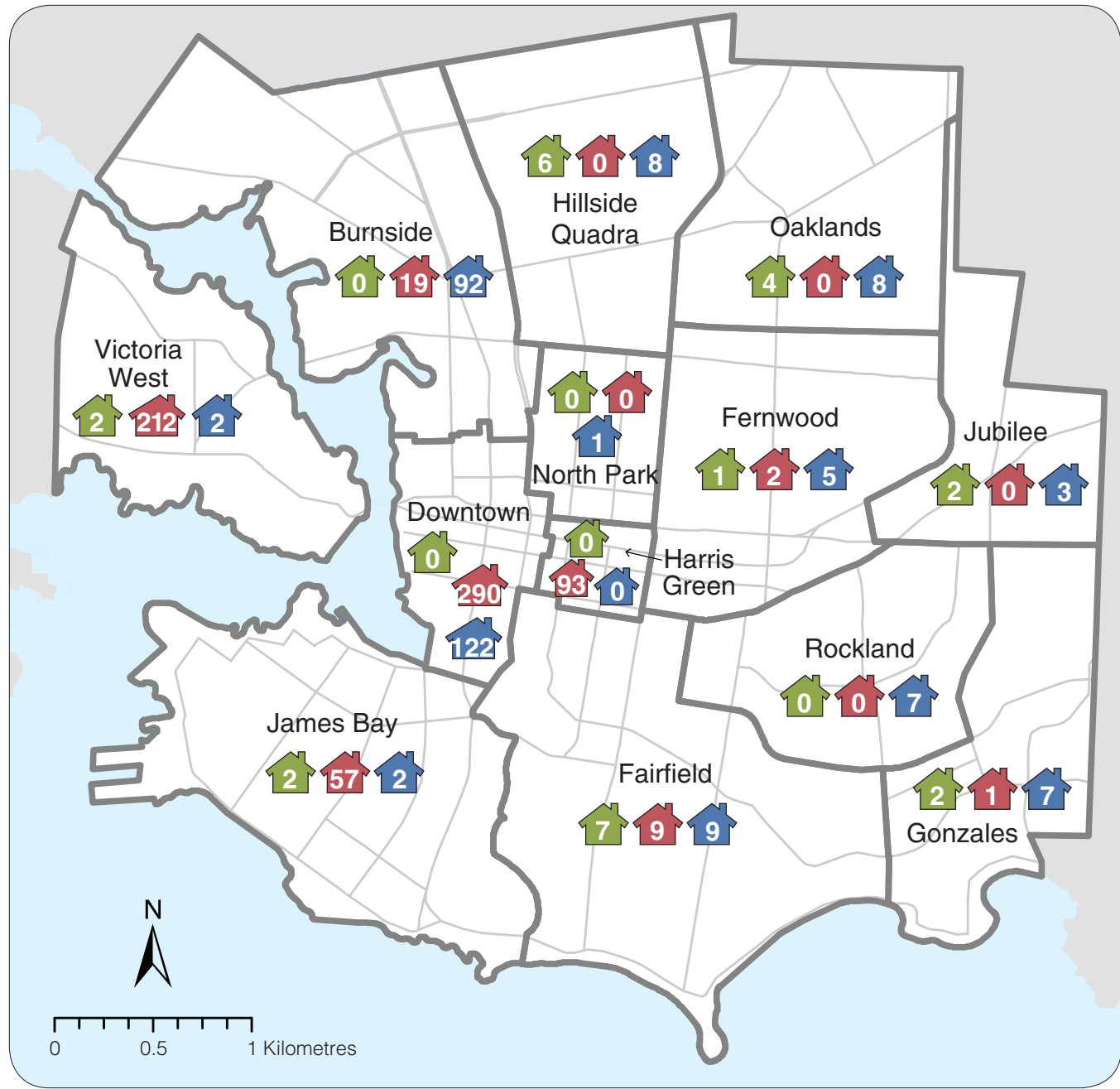
<sup>3</sup>Fee Simple: includes single family dwellings and non-strata attached houses

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA 2012 HOUSING REPORT

## New Housing Units Approved in City of Victoria by Tenure



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012



MAP 5:  
New Housing Units  
Approved by Tenure

- Fee Simple – 26 units
- Strata – 683 units
- Rental – 266 units

Total 2012 New Housing Units Approved = 975

# 12 New Housing Units by Type

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the total number of new housing units by type of housing (townhouse, duplex, secondary suites, etc.) on an annual basis. It also measures the net number of new housing units by type of housing in each neighbourhood. New housing units are calculated using building permit information.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

The OCP encourages a wide range of housing types to support a diverse, inclusive and multigenerational community. Neighbourhoods with a wide range of housing types— such as townhouses, duplexes, single-family dwellings, apartment buildings, special needs housing and secondary suites – can support a diverse population that includes students, families, seniors, group housing, singles or couples. This mix reinforces neighbourhood stability by allowing people to stay in the same neighbourhood throughout different stages of their life. It can also encourage social and economic diversity and different levels of affordability.

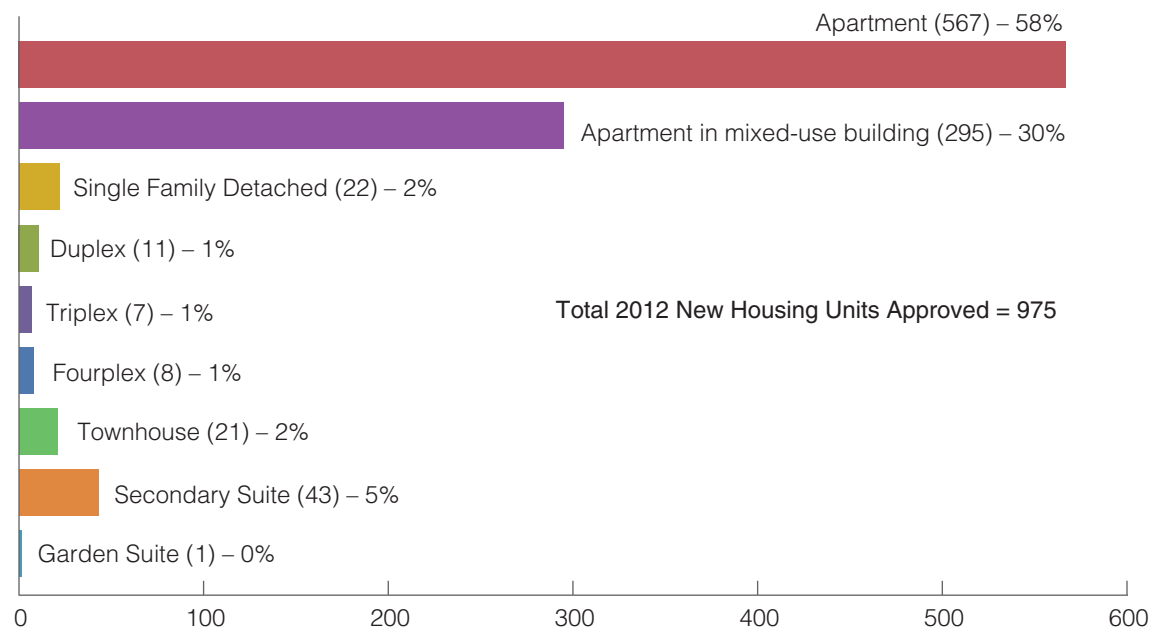
## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

In 2012, “attached” types of housing comprised a significant proportion of Victoria’s new housing units. Of the 975 new units approved in Victoria, nearly 88% of the total new units were apartments, either in free-standing buildings or mixed-use buildings. Other types of attached housing, such as duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, townhouses and secondary suites, accounted for an additional 9% of the new units.

## 2012 New Housing Units Approved City-Wide by Type



SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012

2012 Housing Units Approved by Type of Housing										
Type	Apartment	Mixed use*	Single Family Dwelling	Duplex	Triplex	Fourplex	Townhouse	Secondary Suite**	Garden Suite	New Units
Burnside	110							1		<b>111</b>
Downtown	120	292								<b>412</b>
Fairfield		3	5	4	1	4		7	1	<b>25</b>
Fernwood			1	2				5		<b>8</b>
Gonzales	1		2	-2	3			6		<b>10</b>
Harris Green	93									<b>93</b>
Hillside Quadra	2		5	1				6		<b>14</b>
James Bay	38		2	4	3	4	8	2		<b>61</b>
Jubilee			2					3		<b>5</b>
North Park								1		<b>1</b>
Oaklands			4					8		<b>12</b>
Rockland	5							2		<b>7</b>
Vic West	198		1	2			13	2		<b>216</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>975</b>

SOURCE: CITY OF VICTORIA HOUSING REPORT, 2012

\* Mixed Use: Building that includes both residential and commercial units

\*\*Secondariesuite: A legal suite, located within a single-family detached house

# 13 Rental Housing Vacancy Rate

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the average annual vacancy rate for purpose-built rental housing buildings with three or more units. It does not include the secondary rental market (secondary suites, private condominiums, or other private housing that is rented) which forms an important part of Victoria's rental housing market.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

The rental vacancy rate is an indicator of housing supply and housing affordability. The demand for rental housing is affected by the combination of employment growth, income levels and migration levels (people moving in and out of the city). In Victoria, the demand for rental housing is also influenced by the high cost of home ownership in the region. The OCP policies encourage an increase in the city's supply of rental housing through upgrades and re-investment, and that a wide variety of housing types, tenures and prices gives residents choice. A balanced rental market would have affordable prices for a diversity of household incomes and a vacancy rate between 2 to 3%.

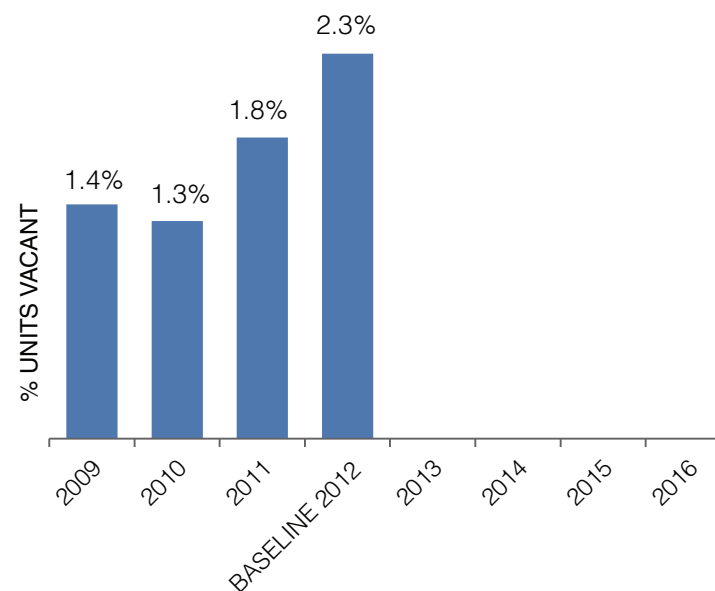
## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Victoria's rental vacancy rate has been gradually increasing over the past two years, and is currently within the range of what is considered a balanced rental market (2 – 3 %).

Overall Vacancy Rate for Purpose-built Rental Housing Units



SOURCE: CMHC 2012 FALL RENTAL MARKET REPORT

# 14 Emergency Shelter Use

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the number of people who have used one or more emergency shelters in Greater Victoria at least one time over the preceding year. In 2012/2013, all of the emergency shelters surveyed (5) were located within the City of Victoria. The indicator does not show how many times people stayed in the shelters over the year, nor how long they stayed. The numbers are measured from April to March of the next year.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

One of the core principles of the OCP is that housing is a basic human need: all people deserve access to housing that is safe, stable and affordable, and supports personal health. Homelessness results from a complex set of circumstances such as the high cost of housing, unstable or inadequate income, and other factors such as illness or violence. Emergency shelter use presents only one dimension of homelessness, which includes a combination of people who are living on the street, living in a shelter, and those who live in insecure or inadequate housing. The OCP recommends that the City work with other community partners to enable stable housing for all people and to increase the supply of affordable crisis, transitional, supported and non-market rental housing so that people who are homeless have more options for stable housing.

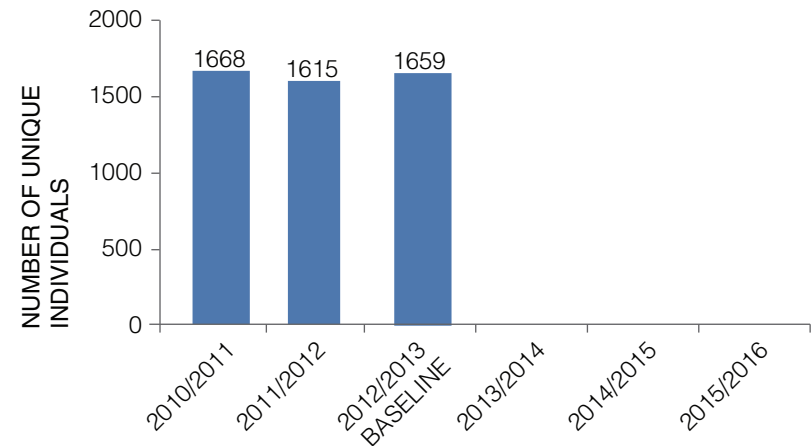
## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The number of people using an emergency shelter increased by 2.7% between 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

Number of Unique Individuals Using Greater Victoria Emergency Shelters



SOURCE: VICTORIA COOL AID SOCIETY, 2013 AND BEACON COMMUNITY SERVICES, 2013, IN GREATER VICTORIA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS; FACING HOMELESSNESS: REPORT ON HOUSING AND SUPPORTS, 2013. TIME PERIOD MARCH TO APRIL.



# 15 Retail, Office and Industrial Vancancies

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the vacancy rate for industrial, retail shopping centres<sup>1</sup>, and downtown office properties. It also measures the vacancy rate for downtown streetfront retail properties.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

The availability of office, retail and industrial space is important for fostering a dynamic and competitive economy. The office, retail and industrial vacancy rate is a measure of Victoria's market strength and economic performance, showing the current balance between demand and supply. The OCP encourages Victoria to attract a reasonable share of regional growth in employment and new commercial and industrial development, to enhance the city's retail sector, and to increase the supply of downtown office space.

## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

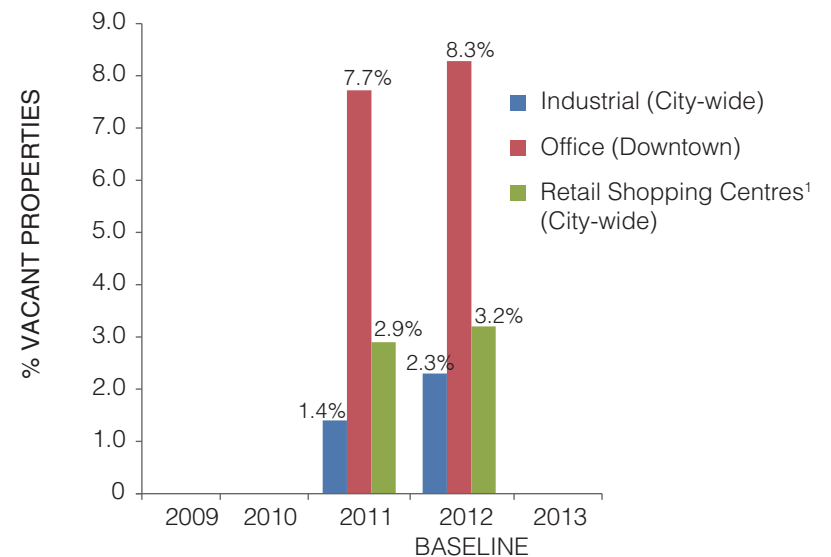
No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

Vacancy rates increased in 2012 in all three categories of properties. The downtown streetfront vacancy rate declined slightly from 2011.

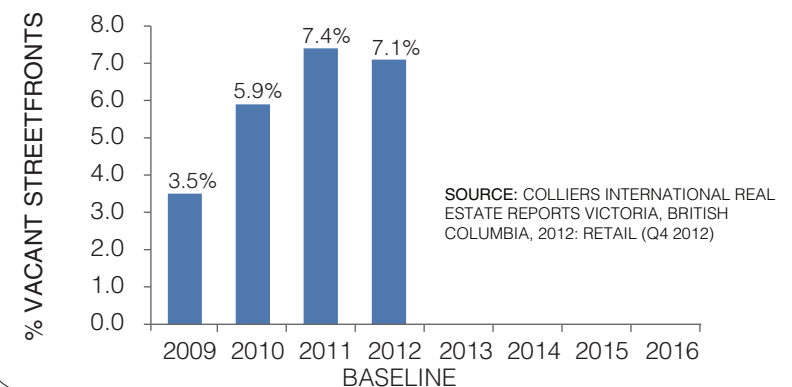
<sup>1</sup>Retail Shopping Centres: a group of retail and commercial establishments that is planned, developed, owned and managed as a single property (International Council of Shopping Centres, 2010)

## Retail, Commercial and Industrial Vacancy Rates



SOURCE: COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE REPORTS VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2012: INDUSTRIAL (Q3 2012); OFFICE (Q4 2012); RETAIL (Q4 2012)

## Downtown Streetfront Vacancy Rate



SOURCE: COLLIERS INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE REPORTS VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2012: RETAIL (Q4 2012)

# 16 OCP Amendments

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator measures the number of amendments to the OCP approved by Council. The amendments are categorized by the type of amendment.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

The OCP provides direction on how Victoria should grow and change over the next 30 years. While all City policy, projects, and spending should be broadly consistent with the OCP, the OCP is intended to be flexible and adaptable. The number of OCP amendments measures when Council has approved a change to the OCP policy or land use framework.

## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

A total of two land use amendments were made to the OCP, both in the Burnside neighbourhood. Council also approved two other amendments to correct administrative errors.

Official Community Plan Amendments – Administrative		
Bylaw Number and Location	Date	Purpose of Amendment
#12-065	11-Oct-12	Correct clerical errors and better define boundaries of certain DPAs and HCAs
#12-072	25-Nov-12	Correct clerical text and mapping errors

Official Community Plan Amendments – Land Use		
Bylaw Number and Location	Date	Purpose of Amendment
#12-066 35 and 39 Gorge Road East	30-Aug-12	Include 35 and 39 Gorge Road East in DPA 7A: Corridors
#13-025 626 Gorge Road East	11-Jul-13	General Employment to Urban Residential

# Contributions from Development

## WHAT IS BEING MEASURED?

This indicator will report the total value of community benefits contributed through new development.

## WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Physical features such as greenways, pedestrian improvements, and public spaces contribute to the livability of a community. New development can play an important role in funding these and other features to serve new residents and employees, and in off-setting some of the impacts of growth.

## TARGET/DESIRED TREND:

No target

## HOW ARE WE DOING?

The scope of this indicator is under development and will be monitored in the future.



## Appendix A: Proposed Five-Year OCP Indicators

The OCP monitoring program includes both annual and five-year indicators. The table below lists the proposed five-year indicators. These were identified in close collaboration with other City departments and consider ongoing City monitoring initiatives and other municipal, planning and sustainability monitoring systems. It is proposed that the indicators be monitored approximately every five years, as resources permit. The list of indicators will be reviewed regularly to consider changes in data availability, data quality, and the availability of City resources.

OCP Section <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Five-Year Indicators (80)
Land Management and Development (10)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Population growth</li> <li>2. Share of population growth in target areas</li> <li>3. New housing units</li> <li>4. Share new housing units located in target areas</li> <li>5. Net new housing units by tenure</li> <li>6. Net new housing units by structural type</li> <li>7. Remaining residential capacity</li> <li>8. Regional share of new housing units</li> <li>9. New commercial and industrial space in target areas</li> <li>10. Share of housing units within walking distance of Town Centres and Urban Villages</li> </ol>
Transportation and Mobility (11)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Percentage of all trips by mode</li> <li>12. Percentage of journey to work trips by mode</li> <li>13. Length of greenways network</li> <li>14. Length of sidewalk network</li> <li>15. Length of cycling network</li> <li>16. Kilometres driven per capita</li> <li>17. Share of housing within walking distance of a frequent or rapid transit stop</li> <li>18. Transit service hours</li> <li>19. Response time for emergency services</li> <li>20. New car share parking spaces</li> <li>21. New bicycle parking spaces in private development</li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup>Indicators in this table are organized by the most relevant section in the OCP. However, it is recognized that each indicator may also be relevant to a number of other sections in the OCP. For example, "Library use" (#73) is classified as an indicator related to Arts and Culture, but is also relevant with respect to the Community Well-Being, Parks and Recreation, and Economy sections.



## Appendix A: Proposed Five-Year OCP Indicators

OCP Section <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Five-Year Indicators (80)
Placemaking (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. Number of new and improved street furnishings</li> <li>23. Number of street trees</li> <li>24. Activities in public spaces</li> <li>25. Level of pedestrian activity</li> <li>26. Number of heritage properties</li> <li>27. Number of artworks in public spaces</li> </ul>
Parks and Recreation (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28. Percentage of land that is park and public open space</li> <li>29. Share of housing within walking distance of park or open space</li> <li>30. New and upgraded parks</li> <li>31. Percentage tree canopy cover</li> <li>32. Indoor recreation space per capita</li> <li>33. Participation in recreational programs</li> </ul>
Environment (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. Percentage of parks land base that is natural area or ecological habitat</li> <li>35. Abundance and diversity of bird species</li> <li>36. Water quality</li> <li>37. Air quality</li> </ul>
Infrastructure (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>38. Length of upgraded storm, water and sewer mains</li> <li>39. Consumption of potable water</li> <li>40. Solid waste collected</li> <li>41. Percentage impervious surface cover</li> </ul>
Climate Change and Energy (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42. Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>43. Energy consumption</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Indicators in this table are organized by the most relevant section in the OCP. However, it is recognized that each indicator may also be relevant to a number of other sections in the OCP. For example, "Library use" (#73) is classified as an indicator related to Arts and Culture, but is also relevant with respect to the Community Well-Being, Parks and Recreation, and Economy sections.



## Appendix A: Proposed Five-Year OCP Indicators

OCP Section <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Five-Year Indicators (80)
Housing and Homelessness (9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44. Average purchase price for residential unit</li> <li>45. New rental housing units</li> <li>46. Rental vacancy rate</li> <li>47. Households spending more than 30% of income on housing</li> <li>48. Required income to purchase a first home</li> <li>49. New strata units with no restrictions on rental</li> <li>50. New affordable and accessible units secured by housing agreement</li> <li>51. Size of new housing units</li> <li>52. Emergency shelter use</li> </ul>
Economy (8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53. Net jobs</li> <li>54. Employment growth in target areas</li> <li>55. Share of total regional jobs by sector</li> <li>56. Remaining capacity for employment lands</li> <li>57. Value of business assessment growth</li> <li>58. Percentage of population living in poverty</li> <li>59. Annual unemployment rate</li> <li>60. Percentage of businesses who believe Victoria is good for business</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Indicators in this table are organized by the most relevant section in the OCP. However, it is recognized that each indicator may also be relevant to a number of other sections in the OCP. For example, "Library use" (#73) is classified as an indicator related to Arts and Culture, but is also relevant with respect to the Community Well-Being, Parks and Recreation, and Economy sections.



## Appendix A: Proposed Five-Year OCP Indicators

OCP Section <sup>1</sup>	Proposed Five-Year Indicators (80)
Community Well-Being (10)	61. Age of population 62. Household income 63. Household size 64. Enrolment numbers at Victoria public schools 65. Participation in neighbourhood events 66. Number of block party permits 67. Attendance at civic meetings 68. Municipal voter participation rate 69. Crime rate 70. Feeling of safety
Arts and Culture (4)	71. Number of arts and cultural venues 72. Local visits to an arts or cultural facility 73. Library use 74. Events at Centennial Square
Food Systems (3)	75. Allotment garden plots per capita 76. Commercial urban agriculture business licences 77. Share of housing within walking distance of a food store
Emergency Management (3)	78. Percentage of civic buildings that meet seismic standards 79. Number of heritage buildings with seismic upgrades 80. Percentage of population prepared for an emergency

<sup>1</sup>Indicators in this table are organized by the most relevant section in the OCP. However, it is recognized that each indicator may also be relevant to a number of other sections in the OCP. For example, "Library use" (#73) is classified as an indicator related to Arts and Culture, but is also relevant with respect to the Community Well-Being, Parks and Recreation, and Economy sections.









1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, British Columbia  
V8W 1P6  
[www.victoria.ca](http://www.victoria.ca)