

Purpose, Scope and Linkages

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OVERVIEW

The purpose of the OCP is to provide a framework of objectives and policies to guide decisions on planning and land management within the geographic boundaries of a local government. This section explains the purpose and scope of the OCP and its linkages to City of Victoria plans, policies and bylaws. Other sections of the plan connect the OCP to regional planning and to topics for which senior governments have lead responsibility.

The OCP is not the only plan that the City approves and updates but it has the highest legal status. In the hierarchy of City plans (Figure 1), the OCP is adopted as a City bylaw and the *Local Government Act* requires that all subsequent bylaws enacted and works undertaken must be consistent with it. It therefore has a guiding role by providing policy direction for all City departments whose activities have, or may have, an impact on present and future development in Victoria.

SCOPE

As a whole, this plan provides a framework to shape and guide present and proposed development towards long-term goals for achieving a more sustainable community by 2041 [SEE SECTION 3 – VISION, VALUES AND GOALS]. Under the *Local Government Act*, the OCP must include policies on topics that are central to land use, like housing and infrastructure, while related policy areas, such as community well-being and environmental protection, are permitted but optional. Victoria's OCP is broader in scope than the minimum legal requirements and includes a number of new policy areas such as **food systems** and emergency management.

The *Local Government Act* also permits an OCP to control and regulate new development in designated areas. For instance, this plan provides direction for form, character, exterior design and landscaping in Development Permit Areas and Heritage Conservation Areas.

Figure 1: Plan Sections and OCP Requirements

PLAN SECTIONS OCP LEGAL REQUIREMENTS	LAND MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY	PLACEMAKING	PARKS AND RECREATION	ENVIRONMENT	INFRASTRUCTURE	CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY	HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS	ECONOMY	COMMUNITY WELL-BEING	ARTS AND CULTURE	FOOD SYSTEMS	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
	REQUIRED												
Residential development	✓		✓					✓					✓
Affordable housing, rental housing and special needs housing								✓					
Commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural, recreational and public utility land uses	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Public facilities including schools, parks and waste treatment and disposal sites	✓			✓		✓				✓	✓		✓
Use of land with hazardous conditions, or that is environmentally sensitive to development	✓				✓								✓
Major road, sewer and water infrastructure systems		✓				✓							✓
Greenhouse gas emissions	✓	✓					✓						
OPTIONAL													
Social well-being, social needs and social development			✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Natural environment, its ecosystems and biological diversity			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Farming in areas designated for agricultural use	✓											✓	

PLAN LINKAGES

Council has approved a variety of planning documents that address different scales, timeframes, and scopes of concern relevant to planning and land management. To provide clarity with respect to OCP consistency requirements, Figure 2 summarizes the content and linkages between the OCP and other City planning documents. OCP directions are achieved through citywide plans with

a more narrow focus, such as transportation and housing; through comprehensive and integrated planning at local area scale; and through the application of the City's spending and regulatory authority. Objectives and policies on the consistency of City plans, policies and bylaws with the OCP are detailed in Section 19 – Plan Administration.

Figure 2: City of Victoria Plan Linkages

Plan Type	Purpose	Scale/Scope	Method of Adoption in Practice	Timeframe
Sustainability Framework	Very long-term vision and goals for a sustainable community that provides a umbrella framework for City plans and corporate activities.	Citywide	Resolution	100 years
Official Community Plan	Policy framework to move towards a sustainable community through planning and land use management.	Citywide	Bylaw	30 years
Corporate Strategic Plan	Vision and goals of Council and City business operations.	Corporate	Resolution	4 years
Master Plans and Strategies	Comprehensive plans for citywide topics or service delivery areas such as transportation.	Citywide	Resolution	Variable
Local Area Plans	Implements OCP directions at the local scale while responding to local context.	Local area/ neighbourhood	Resolution	Aligned with the term of the OCP
Action Plans and Strategies	Action-oriented plans for defined policy areas such as housing and climate change.	Citywide	Resolution	Variable
Policies	Guidance that addresses gaps in existing plans, pilots new initiatives; or responds to emerging issues.	Various	Resolution or Bylaw	Variable
Financial Plan	Detailed plan that provides the spending authority to implement the 20 year capital budget and the five year operating budget.	Corporate	Bylaw	5 years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Capital Budget › Operating Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Part of the Financial Plan that details the funding and spending on capital investment in physical assets that support City operations. › Part of the Financial Plan that details the funding and spending to operate City departments. 			
Regulatory Bylaws	Regulations that govern public and private activities within areas of municipal jurisdiction, such as land use, building, subdivision and development, nuisance, business licensing, and animal control.	Various	Bylaw	Continuous

