

Burnaby 2050 Policy Directions

Community Well-being

Overview

Burnaby is a great place to live, work, learn, play and visit. We want to make sure this city continues to offer a high quality of life for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Community well-being aims to ensure that people feel like they belong, have healthy lifestyles and can access the services they need to thrive. The goal of these policy directions is to connect these concepts to land use planning; facility and space needs; and strategic directions and partnerships.

Accessible and affordable community infrastructure needs to keep up with Burnaby as it grows over the next 25 years.

Community and social facilities and spaces play a vital role in supporting community well-being as they are places where people may come together to access health, educational social, cultural, or recreational programs, services or events. Examples of these facilities and spaces can include community centres, childcare centres, libraries, schools, health facilities, shopping, places of worship and more.

Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Limited land and funding to build and improve community infrastructure.
- The City relies on funding from the provincial and federal government to build new community and social infrastructure.
- Many amenities are only found in certain areas of the city.
- Burnaby's population is becoming more diverse, and different groups need different services and amenities.

Opportunities:

- Other partners, including other orders of government, public institutions, developers and community organizations, also want to increase community facilities and amenities.
- There are many different and innovative ways to support community well-being, such as outdoor places for people to gather or facilities with multipurpose spaces and programming.

Engagement Findings

- Community members want more facilities and amenities that support seniors, newcomers, low-income groups, families, youth and children, women, the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Residents want to feel like they belong and have a community, but some people report feeling lonely and isolated.

- Residents believe communities would be more close-knit if there were more services near public transit, more community events, more recreation programs, and more spaces to gather, connect, learn and grow as a community.
- Public safety is a concern for many residents. This includes road safety, crime, natural hazards and extreme weather.

Policy Directions

Planning for Community Spaces	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
1. Ensure there is enough variety and access to facilities and services to meet community needs, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities that serve a growing population: recreation centres, libraries, childcare, seniors services, cultural spaces, youth centres and schools. Facilities that serve diverse groups of people: newcomer services, Indigenous-serving programs, unique recreation and cultural spaces, non-profit offices, neighbourhood houses, services for people with low income, and services for people experiencing homelessness such as shelters, day centres and supportive and transitional housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnaby’s population is growing and becoming more diverse and will need more and different facilities and services in the future. • It’s easier for people to bike, walk or roll to amenities and services if they are clustered in hubs across the city, closer to where people live. This helps people be more active and reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. Improve service delivery of community facilities and amenities across the city, especially for amenities that meet daily needs for the community.	
3. Find ways to provide more entertainment across the city, such as in commercial and retail hubs with complementary services.	

Community Infrastructure Opportunities and Delivery	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
4. Improve areas of the city that do not have many facilities or services. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Make regulations less restrictive. Enhance policies and streamline development processes to support delivery of City-owned amenities. Advocate to and partner with other orders of government, host Nations and local organizations to deliver facilities and services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making it easier to build and offer services across Burnaby will make them more accessible for community members. • Different orders of government, host Nations and community organizations all play a role in building infrastructure and providing services, ranging from direct investments, advocacy and partnerships.

<p>5. Develop and update strategies to ensure the City plans, funds and builds new infrastructure to keep up with population growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with different partners will help build and provide high-quality services more efficiently.
<p>6. Work with the Burnaby School District, the provincial government, post-secondary institutions and the child care sector to plan and create new schools and child cares where the population is expected to grow.</p>	
<p>7. Work with Fraser Health, health providers, non-profits and the provincial government to plan and expand health care services, including mental health and substance use treatment, complex care and services for other specialized health needs.</p>	

Access to Spaces and Amenities	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>8. Make community facilities, spaces and amenities easier and more convenient for people to get to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Build community facilities together and near other complementary amenities. Identify underused spaces that the community could use. Ensure City-owned facilities are accessible. Prioritize upgrades to make streets, public spaces and high-density areas more accessible. Ensure emergency access routes stay open, accessible and functional. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community facilities are often a hub for communities to access affordable activities, programs and services in their neighbourhood. Making it easier to build and find spaces for new community facilities and amenities will make these services more accessible across the city.

Belonging and Safety	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>9. Increase the sense of belonging and community connection for diverse communities through public art, cultural programming, community events, education and training.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety means different things to different people. Public safety can be improved in many ways, including designing public spaces to help people feel more visible and protected, using data to improve services and preparing for emergencies in advance.
<p>10. Continue to support public safety.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent and reduce crime, focusing on youth safety, gangs and guns. Reduce fear of crime through improving service response and use of evidence-based data about crime. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Plan, design and program public spaces to make them feel safer. d) Identify and address safety issues for people from diverse groups through engagement and education. e) Help community members and neighbourhoods prepare for emergencies. 	
---	--

Places for Community	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>11. Create adaptable public spaces that help community members have healthy lifestyles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Create places where people can gather and connect with each other. b) Create places to have fun and exercise. c) Create places to relax and rest. d) Create places for people to go to in emergencies. e) Design places that are safe, inclusive, welcoming for all people. f) Design places that celebrate, preserve and share diverse cultures. g) Design places where people can grow, cook and access healthy food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public spaces serve many different purposes for the community. • Neighbourhoods across the city need places that people can use to relax, have fun and access services.
<p>12. Explore different ways for community members to care for, manage and use public open spaces.</p>	

Arts, Cultural Heritage and Creative Industries	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
<p>13. Develop a vision and policies for arts, cultural heritage and creative industries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Understand the current state of arts, cultural heritage and creative industries in Burnaby. b) Find ways to protect and grow cultural spaces. c) Create a framework to prioritize policies and investments in arts, cultural heritage and creative industries. d) Increase support for Indigenous, racialized, emerging and diverse artists and organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City needs to research and work with arts, cultural heritage and creative industries to understand how to support these sectors and increase opportunities for community members to access arts and culture.

Community Building and Engagement	
Policy Directions	Why We Are Proposing These Policies
14. Continue to explore creative, equitable, and relevant ways to engage and build relationships with the broader Burnaby community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some groups in the city, including Indigenous people living in Burnaby and people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds, are not usually involved in City decision-making. • Diverse groups have different needs and using an “equity lens” to work with the community will help create more inclusive, accessible services.
15. Engage and collaborate with host Nations, Indigenous people living in Burnaby and Indigenous organizations to understand what kind of spaces Indigenous people need.	
16. Use an equity lens to identify groups the City doesn’t usually consult with and that don’t have access to the services they need. Engage with these groups to improve community services and build relationships with diverse communities.	