

One Planet Action Plan

of the

Oaklands Rise Woonerf



A grassroots initiative to preserve and enhance a set of contiguous sidewalk-free streets through lighter, quicker, cheaper interventions along the backbone of the Kings Road People Priority Greenway.

[One Planet Living](#) is an initiative of [Bioregional](#).

This document was developed to support participants in the One Planet Cities project.



Introduction

The Oaklands Rise Woonerf (ORW) is a shared-space promenade where kids learn to ride bikes, seniors st/roll side-by-side for blocks, and community grows. It is a grassroots adaptation of the Woonerf model developed by Dutch traffic engineers in the 1960-70s in response to increased risk of harm accompanying a shift toward a car-centric modality familiar as a problem in urban planning of the last many decades.

Rather than a typical thoroughfare moving vehicles from one place to another, the Woonerf is a place to be, a “living yard” as the Dutch term suggests.

Our adaptation of the Woonerf model extends along the backbone of the City designated “People Priority Greenway” that is Kings Road between Capital Heights and Oaklands Park. The set of contiguous side-walk free streets presents opportunity for a wide-surface area for community life, something being realized through efforts of those who frequent the area as a destination walk as well as those living on or in proximity to the Woonerf.

The catalyst for the initiative came in 2017 under threat of imposition of “thirty feet of cement, a sidewalk to nowhere” required by the Single Lot Subdivision Bylaw. A group of 21 residents came together to explore mutual concerns, hopes and dreams. The result was a set objectives for preserving this uniquely walkable, sidewalk-free neighbourhood, shared with those who live in proximity, and farther afield.

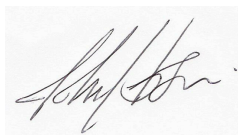
Volunteers step up to give from head, hands and heart as interest, skills and time allow. Now, passersby, residents and those from across the region remark upon *something good* happening in Oaklands. The joy of new friendships and meaningful collaboration is a gift for all.

Victoria City Council has supported through three unanimous votes and gradually, we have won support from City staff as part of a broader shift away from car-centric planning toward community building. Progress is informed by models such as Projects for Public Spaces,, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and similar movements.

Recognizing that participants join for a variety of sometimes quite specific reasons, we are applying the lens of One Planet Living to illustrate how a local community effort can contribute to a better world, uniting the individual interests of participants in a common goal.

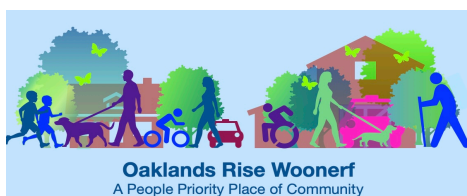
This One Planet Action Plan is a step on the journey. Your input is important! Please contribute your comments and ideas to oaklandsrise@gmail.com

With neighbourly regard,



John James O'Brien, Co-Lead





Health and happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing

This principle covers: healthy living, healthy buildings / products, good public spaces / health services, connecting people / neighbourliness

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of belonging in community among both residents & visitors who frequent the area • A welcoming public realm street space for early, mid and late life activity • Expanded sense of “public space” in what is otherwise understood as a transportation route • Building community out of a hitherto less connected area
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage introducing the concept with text that communicates welcoming values • Assertive engagement with bureaucracy oriented toward alternatives to car-centric models • Collaborative development of alternative ideas (e.g. adapting the Woonerf model, parklette concept, street art & furnishings, etc.) • Active engagement of passersby • Invite Council candidates to tour the woonerf to learn of linkages to civic issues and One Planet Living.
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased activity on the Woonerf Streets as observed by ORW Planning Group members and noted by those frequenting the area • Expanded range of activity on the Woonerf Streets, e.g. street play such as hockey practice; toddlers learning to ride bikes and seniors who previously walked alone now st/rolling¹ in tandem or groups; “stop and chat” activity increasing neighbour connections beyond adjacent properties. • Recognition of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf in a variety of ways (Heritage Foundation, Google Earth, City Council, Greater Victoria Placemaking Network, etc. • Response to invitation to tour woonerf from candidates.
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ORW Planning Group members note change in observed local practices • Feedback from residents and those who frequent the area, e.g. increase in neighbours' health and happiness as indicated through survey responses and anecdotal testimonials • Adoption of the nomenclature introduced by residents and the ORW Planning Group (e.g. Oaklands Rise was unknown prior to the current initiative; woonerf as a concept referenced by City of Victoria. • Survey response; testimonials

¹ st/rolling is the ORW term combining strolling and rolling to indicate use of assistive devices in a promenade.



Equity and local economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade

This principle covers: diversity and equality, local economy, reducing wealth inequality, diverse employment, global equity

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased opportunities to meet needs through local & fair trade suppliers Engagement with a diversity of local suppliers
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of existing local suppliers, including those established through immigrant support networks, through various means of communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Asset Mapping Attending the Oaklands Sunset Market Raise awareness of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf as a backbone for pedestrian reach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of the ORW Brochure Build relationship with individuals, associations and organizations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through naturally occurring opportunities and planned engagements
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement data Feedback and qualitative input
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey response; testimonials Correspondence received Participation in events



Culture and community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living

This principle covers: sense of place, local community, active citizenship, local culture, culture of sustainability

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing awareness of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf • Involvement of diverse, multi-generational populations • Participation in community by residents & those frequenting the area in a variety of ways • Build involvement and support of community organizations
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active relationship building through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Periodic and planned communications (e.g. social media, newsletter & <i>ad hoc</i> efforts) ◦ Engagement of neighbours, passersby & those who frequent the area ◦ Present to interest groups/forums and authorities (community associations, City Council, etc.) ◦ Support grassroots efforts by informal groups with information sharing (e.g. the Brighton Avenue Group; Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association) • Apply for My Great Neighbourhood, Small Neighbourhood & other grants. • Secure donations for specific locally relevant elements (e.g. memorial & historical markers) • Coordinate volunteer activities. • Social media reach (i.e., number of impressions and likes on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest)
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visible use of the street space for community activity • Incidence of opportunities to present the Oaklands Rise Woonerf as an example of One Planet Principles & models such as Projects for Public Spaces, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, etc. • Approval of grant applications • Multi-generational participation in related activities (e.g. planter painting; boulevard gardening) • Outcomes of funded and unfunded projects
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response; testimonials • Mailing list engagement (i.e., link clicks, etc.) • Feedback from residents & those living in proximity • Feedback from (a growing number of) folks who are not resident in the area but come to enjoy the ambience (this is a significant indicator for us as it is a demonstrable intangible) • Street-space conversations; repeated interactions • Chronology



Land and nature

Protecting and restoring land and marine systems for the benefit of people and wildlife

This principle covers: habitat protection / creation, responsible sourcing of materials, global protection of ecosystems, biodiversity audits, reforestation/ deforestation, carbon sequestration

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation, protection & expansion of the current “less urban” ambience of the area • Increase in pollinator corridors across approximately 15 blocks • Use locally relevant materials to retain the sense of place • Increase in local ecosystem horticulture • Engaged residents & others who frequent the area • Visual identity for the area created through a plant list
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and establish pollinator corridors across approximately 15 blocks • Establish a xeriscape demonstration garden through engagement to model local ecosystem (low/no water & low maintenance) horticulture • Use locally relevant materials (e.g. granite, wood, etc.) to retain the sense of place, history & visual identity • Engage with City Council & staff to build support for boulevard gardens, planters, etc. • Engage with local developers to secure locally relevant materials such as stone • Engage with local property owners, renters to encourage participation in boulevard gardening • Introduce the concept & plant lists in a public event • Secure grants to empower action • Engage with UVIC to encourage academic involvement & grounding in horticulture & permaculture • Engage residents & others through design, planning & other activities • Survey public views • Research
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incremental expansion of pollinator corridors across approximately 15 blocks • Inclusion of locally relevant elements • City Council support for presentations and requests to council: 100% support of City Council in 3 presentations since 2017 • Recognition and participation from Mayor and Council: Direct acknowledgement of the Mayor and participation of three additional councillors in various activities • Level of engagement with City Committees (# of meetings, workshops participated in): Active engagement in committee work & design session with City staff (INCLUDE NUMBERS) • Direct support from local businesses: Granite and in-kind labour provided by local developers [number of volunteer hours and \$ equivalent ???] • Grant awards value
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response; testimonials • ORW data



Sustainable water

Using water efficiently, protecting local water resources and reducing flooding and drought

This principle covers: access to water, reducing demand, water reuse, water treatment, flood risk management, embodied water in products and services

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of the need for responsible water use • Improved responsible water use amongst residents • Permaculture methods are used to reduce reliance on engineered solutions for water management
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research • Use communications tools to inform residents & others • Demonstrate approaches that can be adopted by others • Apply for a My Great Neighbourhood Grant for a Xeriscape Demonstration Garden • Draw upon UVIC through the Student & Community Engagement program to ensure valid, ecologically sound action
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant awards • Number of participants involved in building the Xeriscape Demonstration Garden • Number of Volunteer hours • Development of a grant application for a expansion of the Xeriscape demonstration model • Number of permaculture students involved in analyses and design projects • Receipt of permaculture studies and design recommendations
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response; testimonials • ORW data



Local and sustainable food

Promoting sustainable humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein

1. This principle covers: food growing, onsite facilities / canteens, local sourcing, food culture/ healthy diets, certification, humane farming, food waste
 -
2. Logistical issues associated with food production & management in the public realm mean that this principle is not a specific focus of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf initiative per se. However, there is activity among some members & further opportunities may evolve.

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey response; testimonials To be determined



Travel and transport

Reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low-carbon transport

This principle covers: walking and cycling, public transport, low carbon vehicles, car sharing, car parking / charging, green transport plan, employee commuting, business travel

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible, people-priority, shared space use of the Oaklands Rise Woonerf • Wide-surface walkways suitable for multi-generational, accessible use • Low - speed motorized vehicle use • Proximal location of vehicle share options • EV/alternative transportation use
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into practices in other jurisdictions • Engagement with City traffic & engineering to encourage alternatives to the car-centric models • Design options collaboratively developed with the City • Engagement with residents & others to raise awareness of alternative models • Secure data, e.g. measure street speed & use through various means • Secure street furnishings (e.g. planters) • Apply for relevant My Great Neighbourhood grants • Engage residents & those who frequent the area in grant related and other activities
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of City signage reinforcing the people-priority multi-modal initiative & underpinning concepts • Grant awards received
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response; testimonials • ORW data



Materials and products

Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption

This principle covers: procurement, sustainable production and consumption, circular design of products and services (incl. safe and responsibly sourced materials, recycled content), supply chain, packaging, sharing economy

Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials that would otherwise be relegated to disposal incorporated into ORW for productive use Adoption of a reduce, re-use, re/up-cycle mentality
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with local developers & owners to secure stone and other construction related "waste" Engage with local sources for in-kind support (transport, equipment, etc.) Model alternative use of land-fill destined items (e.g. boulevard garden borders, paths, art) Promote general awareness to encourage engagement when opportunities arise
Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of local businesses contributing materials and in-kind support: (e.g. digger, pounder, staff assistance) Number and examples of support received
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Material evidence ORW data



Zero waste

Reducing consumption, re-using and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution

This principle covers: waste in operations / construction / products & packaging, waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle), maximising value of waste/ circular economy, final waste disposal, toxic pollution

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a reduce, re-use, re/up-cycle mentality • Contribute to overall reduced waste through household & personal efforts.
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model waste reduction/recycling/composting alternatives • Communicate practices that work through various means
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of actively composting households • Number of composting households extending the City program through household composting • Number of composting households extending the City program through Community Compost • Evident re-use of materials (e.g. storm toppled Garry Oak trees from a residents property utilized for Woonerf benches; artist(s) use of materials that would otherwise be wasted)
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • xxx



Zero carbon energy

Making buildings energy efficient and supplying all energy with renewables

This principle covers: energy consumption, energy efficiency of your buildings, greenhouse gases, energy consumption of products, renewable energy on-site and off-site, renewable energy tariffs

Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible energy consumption • Practical implementation (e.g. avoidance of well-intentioned but over-engineered approaches) • Informed dialogue
Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote private trickle-charge for EVs unless 2nd level charger is warranted • Promote 2nd & higher level public chargers to augment local trickle charging for occasional needs • Communications that invite inquiry • Research
Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of EVs in the neighbourhood (compared to fossil fuel based vehicles) • Number of net-zero house developmentsf
Observation (Methods of Quantitative & Qualitative Measure)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey response; testimonials • ORW data