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8.0 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Seymour's community vision is of a high quality of life for current residents and future generations, which includes the notion of maintaining an attractive community that supports residents as their needs change. Fundamentally, the Plan promotes a sustainable Seymour community through low, managed growth and environmental stewardship. This section recognizes that the social needs of residents must also be supported in order to maintain a truly sustainable, healthy community over time.

"Community Services," describes a range of activities that contribute to the health and well being of a community. They can include leisure, health, recreation, social, safety, education or spiritual services and can be delivered by local or other governments, agencies, non-profit societies, or other groups. The municipal role typically includes funding and co-ordination of service delivery, as well as identifying and planning for local service needs.

Currently, Seymour's residents have access to a wide range of community services. Seymour is home to six public elementary schools, two secondary schools and a private, denominational school. School District #44 continues its program to add classroom space and upgrade school facilities to improve the learning environment for Seymour students. Parkgate Community Centre was opened as a community-based and managed facility in 1999 and has rapidly become an intensively used community focal point. It provides significant community space and offers extensive services and programming for seniors, youth, childcare, public health and families. Other community service assets in Seymour include Seycove Community Centre in Seycove High School, the community space at the Lions' seniors housing complex and Bowron Court, several churches, the Deep Cove Cultural Centre and the Parkgate library. A wide range of recreational facilities and programs can be found in Seymour -- home to golf courses, the Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre, the Deep Cove Rowing Centre, Deep Cove Yacht Club, boat launching, play space and field houses at District parks and the facilities and recreational programming at Parkgate. As emphasized throughout the Plan, Seymour's waterfront and mountain setting provides trails, pathways and outdoor opportunities for Seymour and North Shore residents, as well as the entire region.

Because of the residential growth experienced in recent decades and the subsequent "catching up" of community services that was required, there is a persistent concern that the provision of community services keeps pace with any future development. In the low-growth context of this Plan, major additions to community services are not foreseen at this time. Rather, the approach emphasizes maintaining and augmenting the investment in facilities and community capacity that already exists in Seymour. This could include more fully utilizing community assets, improving delivery through partnerships and

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community governance, and monitoring trends, needs and desires so that residents continue to benefit from high quality services over time.

Community trends with implications for service design and delivery that were identified through the Plan process include:

- Currently healthy and active seniors aging
- Increased need for outreach health and community services
- Expanding family roles, including working adults caring for both their children and senior parents, as well as retired seniors providing childcare for grandchildren and financial assistance to grown children
- Ongoing need for quality, affordable childcare for working families and an ongoing need for greater support of families with older children

Goal

To provide a level of community services in Seymour that is equitable, accessible, keeps pace with community growth and responds to changing needs.

Objective 8.1 *Maintain and fully utilize existing public and institutional facilities.*

Policy 8.1.1 **Properly maintain existing facilities.**

Implementation

8.1.1.1 Allocate sufficient municipal funds for the maintenance of existing District and RecCommission public facilities.

Policy 8.1.2 **Continue to develop and implement joint use agreements between the District and School District #44 to increase community use of schools and fields.**

Implementation

8.1.2.1 Contribute to the maintenance of facilities that fall within Joint Use or other agreements, such as the Seycove Community Centre.

8.1.2.2 Investigate the opportunity to coordinate school closures with other potential community uses.

Policy 8.1.3 **Generally support the retention of existing institutional and public assembly uses within Seymour.**

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Policy 8.1.4 Generally support the use of District properties by non-profit organizations providing benefit to Seymour and its residents, provided that principles of fairness, accountability and review are satisfied.

Policy 8.1.5 Encourage continued and increased community access to meeting space and other facilities and resources in Seymour.

Implementation

8.1.5.1 Work with community groups and partners such as North Shore Health, Seymour Community Services Society, School District #44, Mount Seymour Lions, churches, and others to identify space and resources available for community use.

Policy 8.1.6 Increase accessibility to public facilities for all Seymour residents by ensuring District facilities are barrier free and by working with other institutions and groups to reduce barriers to accessibility.

Objective 8.2 *Maintain an adequate supply of land and provide sufficient community facilities and programs to meet future needs.*

Policy 8.2.1 Provide elementary and secondary school sites in appropriate locations for future school construction, determined in consultation with School District #44 and other partners, and considering potential new development, demographic changes and projected enrolments. (See also Section 4.0 Housing and Schools)

Implementation

8.2.1.1 Retain the designated secondary school site south of Anne Macdonald Way.

8.2.1.2 Retain the designated school site in Northlands and work with School District #44 to determine its necessity based on potential new development.

8.2.1.3 Work with Tsleil-Waututh Nation to develop a shared elementary school site.

8.2.1.4 Continue to work co-operatively with School District #44 to facilitate renovations and upgrading of existing school facilities.

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- Policy 8.2.2** Examine the potential for Seymour to accommodate additional recreational facilities and resources to serve local and District community needs, such as a running track, additional playing fields or other active uses. (See also 7.3.2)

Implementation

- 8.2.2.1 Continue to consult with the RecCommission, School District #44, the Arts & Culture Commission of North Vancouver and Tsleil-Waututh Nation for long-range facility planning in Seymour.
- 8.2.2.2 In consultation with the community, developers, RecCommission, District Parks and other departments, consider Northlands as an appropriate location for the provision of active recreational space.

- Policy 8.2.3** Work with owners, developers and community partners to increase community facility space in any future development on public assembly or comprehensive development lands.

- Policy 8.2.4** Ensure that any new or re-developed community buildings respect the physical and cultural character of the surrounding community.

Objective 8.3 *Flexible, responsive programming and community services that respond to the needs of Seymour's residents.*

- Policy 8.3.1** Continue to fund and otherwise support youth outreach services and youth programming in Seymour.
- Policy 8.3.2** Encourage and support community groups, non-profit agencies and others providing services and programming for seniors.
- Policy 8.3.3** Support the provision of a continuum of childcare services in Seymour, for children aged 6 months to 12 years.
- Policy 8.3.4** Examine the need for and encourage services supporting families with older children.

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- Policy 8.3.5** In partnership between Community Planning, North Shore Health Region, community-based service providers, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Seymour residents and others, regularly assess community social and demographic changes, trends, other changes, and their impact on community services.
- Policy 8.3.6** Work with all community partners to design, adapt and implement recreational, educational, health and social services and programs to meet current and changing needs.

Implementation

- 8.3.6.1** Review library services, hours of operation and meeting room facilities to enhance access to these services.

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Objective 8.4 *Achieve a high level of safety, security and accessibility to community services in Seymour.*

Policy 8.4.1 **Continue to provide emergency services, including police, fire and ambulance, at a level that ensures the safety and security of Seymour residents.**

8.4.1.1 Establish a Community Policing Centre in Seymour.

Policy 8.4.2 **Encourage a high level of emergency preparedness for the Seymour community.**

Implementation

8.4.2.1 Community Planning to work with North/West Vancouver Emergency Services, local schools, businesses, institutions, agencies, and residents to encourage involvement and promote the development of emergency response plans that emphasize personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness.

Policy 8.4.3 **Promote public awareness of what services and facilities exist in Seymour and how to access them.**

Policy 8.4.4 **Ensure that community services and facilities are safe, secure and accessible to all Seymour residents – physically, financially, by various transportation modes and by being welcoming.**

Implementation

8.4.4.1 Work with seniors, youth, families, facility staff, RecCommission, North Shore Health Region and service agencies to promote safe and welcoming environments.

8.4.4.2 Promote awareness of the recreation voucher program and other programs enabling access to services.

8.4.4.3 Work with user groups, service providers, Advisory Committee on Disability Issues, District departments, TransLink and others to assess community facilities for accessibility by car, bus, bike on foot, or with assistance devices.

Objective 8.5 *Work in partnerships to deliver programs and services in cost-effective ways which best meet the community's needs.*

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Policy 8.5.1 Explore opportunities for innovative, community-based service delivery.

Policy 8.5.2 Explore partnerships, encourage volunteerism and fundraising to enhance educational, recreational, health, social and other service opportunities in Seymour.

Implementation

8.5.2.1 Identify specific programs or projects based on local need and attributes, suitable for corporate or other sponsorship.

Policy 8.5.3 Monitor community service delivery and community trends to ensure that residents' needs are being effectively met.