



MEDIA ADVISORY
October 2nd, 2008

THE VANCOUVER CITY PLANNING COMMISSION AND SMART GROWTH BC LAUNCH YOU^{MAP} VANCOUVER



On October 3rd and 4th, the Vancouver City Planning Commission in partnership with Smart Growth BC will launch *YouMap Vancouver* at the Britannia Community Services Centre. *YouMap Vancouver* project asks neighbourhood residents to ‘map’ the amenities in their neighbourhood – essentially exploring the characteristics that make their neighbourhood a great place to live.

YouMap Vancouver will empower local residents of all ages and backgrounds to rethink traditional definitions of ‘amenity’ beyond parks and libraries.

“*YouMap Vancouver* is a unique opportunity for community members to come together to celebrate the many great and often intangible things about the places they call home” says Tom Lancaster, Manager of Smart Growth Advisory Services.

In a two-day Festival in the Grandview Woodlands neighbourhood, participants will have the opportunity to engage with their neighbours and knowledgeable facilitators about topics ranging from their favourite places to relax, to information about housing form and character, transportation and sustainability. The Festival is designed to be fun, engaging and educational. Among other things, festival goers may choose to take part in a ‘Walk n’ Roll’ tour through the neighbourhood. The facilitated tours will ask participants to photograph and record stories about their favorite places in the neighbourhood.

The *YouMap Vancouver* project begins in Grandview Woodlands—one of two neighbourhood where the project is being piloted. The other neighbourhood is Douglas Park, where *YouMap Vancouver* festival is planned for October 24th and 25th.

“We hope participants will leave the festivals with new perspectives and a greater understanding of their neighbourhoods” says Lancaster.

Chair of the Vancouver City Planning Commission, Alan Boniface said the Commission hopes the mapping project will give residents an opportunity to identify the special places, the shops, viewpoints and public spaces that make their streets special.

“This is aimed at allowing citizens to define at the neighbourhood level what makes Vancouver special so that when we plan and manage change in a way that values and builds on the strengths of Vancouver’s neighbourhoods.”

The Grandview Woodlands YouMap Vancouver event will be held at the Learning Resource Centre from 5 – 7pm on October 3rd and from 10am – 2pm on October 4th.

The Vancouver City Planning Commission is a volunteer body appointed by the Vancouver City Council to advise on issues related to long term planning in the City. The Commission strives to deliver outstanding long-range planning and research advice to City Council in part by listening creatively to Vancouverites. Smart Growth BC is a non-governmental organization devoted to fiscally, socially and environmentally responsible land use and development.

To find out more about the *YouMap* Vancouver project go to the website: www.youmapvancouver.ca or phone Tom Lancaster at Smart Growth BC: 604 689 4600.

For more information about the **Vancouver City Planning Commission**: www.planningcommission.ca

For more information about **Smart Growth BC**: www.smartgrowth.bc.ca

For more information about **YouMap Vancouver** go to: www.youmapvancouver.ca



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Smart Growth Advisory Services is a project of Smart Growth BC (www.smartgrowth.bc.ca), a provincial non-profit working to create more livable communities.