



# March 2021 Update North Park

## In Your Neighbourhood

### Community Virtuals

The City is continuing with the [Community Virtuals](#) presentation series in 2021. The next event will be exploring opportunities for Victorians to get involved in gardens and growing. You can find more information and register at [victoria.ca/neighbourhoods](http://victoria.ca/neighbourhoods).

### Neighbourhood Coordinator Grant

Council has approved \$20,000 in funding to support coordinators for neighbourhood associations without community centres. This includes the North Park, Downtown, Jubilee, Rockland and James Bay neighbourhood associations. The coordinators will help the organizations achieve goals for engaging residents, leading projects and organizational administration. Associations will submit their initial plans for the funding and reports at the end of the year to help Council determine the success of the funding to inform consideration for similar future funding.

### Neighbourhood Boundaries

On February 4, 2021 Victoria City Council held a workshop regarding proposed changes to neighbourhood boundaries. On February 25, 2021 Council provided clarification on its resolutions for follow up by staff. The date for reporting back to Council was rescheduled to September 2021 to allow for community consultation and Council also emphasized that the identified boundary changes were suggestions only and required input from residents. Staff will be engaging with residents on boundaries in coming months.

Council's initial discussion on neighbourhood boundaries can be found on the video of the February 4, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting from approximately 1:16 to 2:34 (78 minutes duration). The second discussion (~35 minutes) was held at the [March 4 Council meeting](#).

### Camping in Parks

At their March 11 Council meeting (following Committee of the Whole), Council will consider a [staff report](#) recommending that Council move forward as planned with reverting to Bylaw restrictions that preclude camping at parks during the daytime. Council had determined this direction to take effect on March 31, 2021 given that indoor spaces were in place for all campers by that time. Indications are that that this will be the case, though staff are recommending retention of measures for camping that area

**Get Connected, Get Inspired, Get Funded**  
Looking for inspiration to make your neighbourhood even better?  
Join us for a free lunch and learn this spring!

**Growing in the City**  
Wednesday, March 17, noon – 1:30 p.m.

Planting season will soon be here! Join City staff and community gardening practitioners to explore the many opportunities and resident-focused programs for gardening available to Victorians.

**Neighbours Helping Neighbours in Community Preparedness**  
Wednesday, April 21, noon – 1:30 p.m.

Did you know your neighbours are often your first responders in an emergency? Preparing with your neighbours will help you respond and recover from emergencies. Join us for a session where we'll talk about why connecting with neighbours is important, learn about some great projects already happening in the City, and provide some resources to get started.

**Placemaking Toolkit**  
Wednesday, May 19, noon – 1:30 p.m.

Ever thought about improving your neighbourhood with a physical legacy? Join us in learning about how to enhance and create new public spaces as our panel of experts discuss all things placemaking, including the City's new toolkit for residents.

**Already have an idea to improve your neighbourhood?**  
Apply for a My Great Neighbourhood Grant of up to \$5,000 for a project and \$1,000 for an activity.





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intended to manage COVID 19 risk. Council will also consider a recommendation that Centennial Square and Central Park are prohibited for camping as of March 31, 2021.

### Tiny Homes

A staff [report](#) regarding an application for the required permits to accommodate the “tiny homes” temporary housing project was presented to Council on March 4, 2021. The site operator, Our Place Society provided information on the operating model for the site, including the establishment of a Community Advisory Committee that will include neighbourhood representation. Council approved the reports recommendations and a public hearing will be scheduled for Council’s evening meeting on March 18, 2021.

### CALUC Process Change

In response to COVID 19, Council modified the process for gathering community feedback for rezoning and variance applications in July, 2020. The modified process provided that residents within the notification area could go onto the Development Tracker on the City website to review application materials and submit comments. On February 11, Council approved a *motion “...to require applicants to post development application signs on site and to be available for a virtual community meeting where the CALUC is able and desires to host a virtual meeting in conjunction with the pre-application community consultation process that is in place during the COVID 19 pandemic.”*

**Great Neighbourhood Grant  
Program Reopens for  
Applications on April 1**  
It’s time to consider projects that you  
may be interested in leading!

### Emergency Housing

In response to the recent weather events affecting unhoused people in City parks, Council is asking staff to determine the implications of adding 2021 Strategic Plan actions to “*work with partner agencies and parameters outlined in the existing City of Victoria Emergency Plan to establish an effective emergency shelter function for unhoused persons, including activating municipally-owned property to provide emergency shelter and other emergency social services to meet community needs in the event of emergencies.*”

Council also passed a resolution for the City to “*...Indicate to the Province its support for the inclusion in the modernized Emergency Program Act to take into consideration the needs of vulnerable populations in the event of an emergency.*”

### Connect and Prepare

Looking to strengthen neighbour connections and mutual supports to be better prepared now during the pandemic and down the road for other emergencies? Applications are now open for the next fully-virtual round of Connect & Prepare. Experts from Building Resilient Neighbourhoods and VictoriaReady will support you through a series of virtual workshops designed to build community and improve emergency preparedness. You will receive helpful information, tools, materials and micro-grants to support you, as well as up to \$500 worth of shared emergency supplies. Find more information [here](#).





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### City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 9:00am with Council evening meetings at 6:30 on March 11 and 25.