

# 2020 Programs

- Monthly food & farmers market
- Weekly grocery hamper
- Programs and activities at Royal Athletic Park
- Get Growing, Victoria
- Community Land Trust and Community Benefit Agreement with Queen's University

# New 2020 program: Food & Farmers Markets

The North Park Food & Farmers Market began in September 2020. The September and October markets were held in the parking lot of St. John the Divine. Since November the markets are held at Royal Athletic Park.

This market, focused on food security includes vendors who sell fresh and prepared food items. \$5 gift certificates are provided to grocery hamper recipients and service groups to distribute to households that would benefit from increased access to food security initiatives.

Funding source: Canadian Red Cross, City of Victoria Strategic Plan Grant









# New 2020 program: Weekly Grocery Hamper Program







In April 2020, the NPNA begin a weekly, delivered grocery hamper program. The hampers include produce, bread, dairy, non-perishable items and eggs.

The hampers are sorted and delivered by volunteers on Thursdays between 9am-2pm.

In 2020, the NPNA distributed almost 2,100. In 2021 we will distribute approximately 3,900 hampers.

Funding source: Canadian Red Cross, City of Victoria Strategic Plan Grant

Thank you as well to First Met Church, Cobbs Bread, Mustard Seed and the Foodshare Network, and North Park Bike Shop for your support of this program.

# Thank you to the volunteers!



Thank you to the volunteers who pick up food, sort hampers, deliver the hampers, and connect community members to the program!

This program could not happen without you!

Thank you, Deirdre, Gail, Sue, Josie, Penny, Ryan, Charles, Gen, Micia, Maya, Kate, James, and Christine!

Thank you to the First Met Church for the generous use of the Community Hall and all of your support!



# New 2020 program: Events and Programs at Royal Athletic Park

For the months of August and September, the NPNA hosted free recreation programs in Royal Athletic Park during the community use hours.

The NPNA worked with local groups as well as the City of Victoria to put on a variety of programs and activities to appeal to a wide range of ages, abilities, and interests. The Sunday night soccer for children ages 7-13 was especially popular. For this program, we worked with parent coaches from the Masjid Al Iman Mosque.

For many, this was their first time in Royal Athletic Park. We look forward to hosting programs and events at RAP in summer 2021 as well!

Funding source: Canadian Red Cross









# New 2020 program: Get Growing, Victoria!





Through the Parks Department, The City of Victoria grew vegetable seedlings, and then worked with community partners, such as the NPNA to distribute the seedlings. Community members dropped by Franklin Green to pick up seedlings in a covid safe setting.

The NPNA hosted two vegetable seedling distribution days on June 8th and August 14th.

A local resident applied for an additional grant from the Victoria Foundation to purchase additional soil, soil amendments, containers, and gardening tools to set community members up with everything they would need to grow their own food at home.

Funding source: City of Victoria direct award grant

# Community Land Trust and Community Benefit Agreement Pilot

One of the goals of the NPNA is advocating for affordable, accessible living spaces that centre community benefit and equity.

From September - December 2020 the NPNA worked with eight masters of urban planning students from Queen's University to research and propose ways that <a href="Community Benefit Agreements">Community Benefit Agreements</a> and <a href="Community Land Trusts">Community Land Trusts</a> could be used to incorporate equity, diversity, and inclusion into all North Park developments and projects.

PLANNING FOR EQUITY:

CLTs AND CBAs AS TOOLS FOR EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD

Queen's University School of Urban and Regional Planning

You can read the report on our website.

**Community Land Trusts** are community based non profit organizations that acquire and hold land/buildings with the primary goal of preserving affordability and facilitating land stewardship for community residents. They are a tool to address housing affordability for low and moderate income households who face barriers to market rentals and ownership.

**Community Benefit Agreements** are a legal agreement between a developer and a community ensuring large scale developments bring meaningful and relevant environment economic, and social benefits to a community. (For example, local job creation and hiring agreements, local procurement opportunities, improvements to public spaces and parks, community and childcare centres, and other community amenities.)

# 2020 Events

- North Park Social
- Urban Tree Walking Tour
- Friendship BBQ at Royal Athletic Park
- All Candidates Debate
- Volunteer work parties at Franklin Green
- 2019 Free Neighbourhood Skate at Save on Foods Memorial Arena

## Event: August 29, 2020 - North Park Social at Franklin Green



The NPNA collaborated with Vinyl Envy to hire local musicians (Ora Cogan, Caleb Hart, and Downtown Mischief) to perform on a small stage in Franklin Green.

This event allowed us to support local artists and local businesses (guests received a gift card to a local business) and activate one of our favourite green spaces.

It was a huge success - possibly a bit too successful, in fact - and we look forward to collaborating with artists again in 2021 to host another social in a North Park green space.

Funding source: City of Victoria, Everyday Creativity
Grant

# Event: October 3, 2020 - Urban Tree Walking Tour

Arborists Ryan Senechal and Shannon Murray volunteered their time and expertise to take a small group of community members on a walking tour of North Park's urban forest.

Those who participated in this informative and engaging walking tour learned about the trees that make up our urban tree canopy, ways to care for these trees and how we can can strengthen our urban forest.

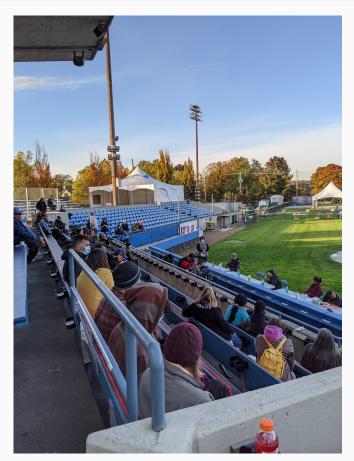
Funding source: non required







# Event: October 22, 2020 - Friendship BBQ at Royal Athletic Park



The Friendship BBQ at RAP was an event suggested by those living in Central Park as a way of bridging the divide between the housed and unhoused residents living in North Park. The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness' peer research team participated in the organizing and promotion of the event.

The BBQ was catered by a local restaurant (Jones BBQ). The focal point of the event was a panel discussion (pictured) with four residents currently experiencing homelessness and one housed resident. The topic of the discussion was "Creative Solutions To End Homelessness." It was well attended, and we look forward to hosting similar events in 2021 as public health direction allows.



Funding source: Canadian Red Cross

## Event: December 1, 2020 - All Candidates Debate

In preparation for the rescheduled municipal by-election in December 2020 several community associations worked together to host an all candidates debate on Zoom. The participating neighbourhood associations were Fernwood, North Park, Burnside Gorge, Vic West, Downtown, Oaklands, South Jubilee, and Hillside Quadra. The debate was moderated by Joe Perkins of CHEK News.

All eight candidates participated, and the livestreamed and recorded debate has been viewed over 10,000 times.

Funding source: City of Victoria direct award grant



# Events: Work Parties & Mulch Distribution days at Franklin Green Native Plant Garden







Garden work parties and events looked a lot different in 2020. Small groups of volunteers spent time in the garden over the year at several work parties. Volunteers watered the native plants, weeded the garden, ripped out morning glory, planted and harvested seasonal vegetables.

In 2020 we commissioned the design of a beautiful sign for the garden by North Park artist, Laura Bonnie. And we planted pollinators and plants to establish the Franklin Green Native Plant garden as a Monarch waystation!

In 2021, we will be partnering with VIRCS.

Funding Source: City of Victoria direct award base grant

# Thank you to the volunteers!





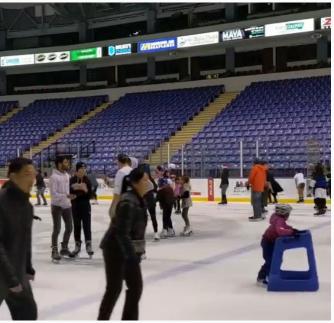




Thank you to all of the volunteers who support the vegetable seedling distribution days and take care of Franklin Green Garden!

## Bonus 2019 event! Free Neighbourhood Skate at Save on Foods Memorial Arena





On Friday, December 13, 2019 the NPNA hosted a free public skate at the Save on Foods Memorial Arena.

Over 500 community members participated in this totally free, family friendly, inclusive event. We were blown away with the positive response and the attendance at this event, which demonstrates the desire in the North Park neighbourhood for free, recreation based community events

The event featured free skate and helmet rentals, several free take home crafts making use of upcycled craft supplies, a "Humans of North Park" professional photo booth where guests were invited to have a family portrait taken, and free food. In future covid free years, we look forward to hosting another free skating event at the Save on Foods Memorial Arena!

# Sheltering in Parks: Central Park & 940 Caledonia

# Central Park & 940 Caledonia Advocacy

#### **Advocacy and communication**

- Request to implement a criteria for outdoor sheltering in parks (<u>June 2020</u>)
- Closure of Centennial Square and effects on Central Park (<u>August</u>)
- Summary of concerns about Central Park, lack of distributed approach, communication (<u>August, September 2</u>, <u>September 9</u>, <u>October</u>, <u>November</u>)
- Advocating for housing including Oak Bay Lodge, Save on Foods Memorial Arena (<u>September</u>, <u>December 2</u>, <u>December 21</u>)
- Lessons learned from relocation from Central Park to 940 Caledonia (<u>February</u>)
- Requests to end sheltering in Central Park (<u>February letter</u>, <u>February presentation</u>)
- Treatment of tenants at 940 Caledonia (March)

At Committee of the Whole on March 18, City Council carried the following motion: "That Council instruct the City Solicitor to bring forward bylaw amendments necessary to continue the permanent prohibition on sheltering in Centennial Square, Central Park and Cecelia Ravine Park in time for adoption prior to May 1, 2021, with the prohibition in Central Park being reviewed at a time when the 940 Caledonia Temporary Use Permit expires."

Based on this motion, we understand that sheltering in Central Park is currently prohibited, and that prior to May 1, 2021 Council will implement amendments to the bylaw that extend this ban past May 1, 2021 and review it again when the Tiny Home Community at 940 Caledonia is no longer in operation.

# Central Park & 940 Caledonia Advocacy

#### Involvement at Central Park & 940 Caledonia

- Weekly meetings with Bylaw, Parks Department, and Engagement and posting to website
- Red Cross Round 1 (July December), Red Cross Round 2 (December February 2021)
  - Food for weekly meetings
  - Sheltering supplies (tents, tarps, plywood, toiletries, sleeping bags, etc)
  - Hygiene supplies, water, flashlights
  - Honorarium supported job roles (940 Caledonia)
  - Coordination of services (warming tent, meal distribution, etc)

#### Video Village: Interviews at 940 Caledonia

In February, documentary film maker Krista Loughton hosted a Video Village at 940 Caledonia. Beginning on Monday, March 22 Krista is releasing one video a day on YouTube of an interview with a 940 Caledonia resident. You can watch them all here.



# Thank you to the volunteers!









Thank you to the volunteers who advocated for better supports and services for those in Central Park and 940 Caledonia. Thank you to the Canadian Red Cross for grant funding to respond to the immediate needs of our unhoused neighbours.

# Land Use

- NPNA hired a Land Use Planning advisor
- NPNA Land Use Planning Guide published on website
- Community Values Survey launched in October, results now published on website
- More formal Land Use Committee (LUC) launched in early 2021
- Local Area Plan
- Changes to neighbourhood boundaries
- BC Housing purchases 953-959 Balmoral

# New in 2020: Land Use Planning Advisor Role

In 2020, the NPNA was able to secure funding to hire a part-time Land Use Planning Advisor - Eleni Gibson - who began working in March of 2020.

The primary role of the Land Use Planning Advisor is to support the Land Use Committee (LUC) Chair, help the board and the public understand planning documents and development applications, and to coordinate community meetings on development proposals and land use issues.

The Land Use Planning Advisor also supports the Executive Director and Board in drafting letters and memos related to land use and transportation issues in the neighbourhood, and takes on projects as directed by the Board.

#### Those projects include:

- NPNA Land Use Planning Guide
- Community Values Survey launched in October, results now published on website
- More formal Land Use Committee (LUC) launched in early 2021

# Land Use Planning Guide

Planning language and policies can be difficult to understand, and there are many overlapping policies that apply to North Park. In Spring 2020, the NPNA developed a **North Park Planning Guide** to help demystify some of the policies and terms commonly used in planning documents.

It covers the Official Community Plan (OCP), the North Park Local Area Plan (LAP), and the Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP). It also covered the concept of Floor Space Ratio (FSR), bonus density, and other key planning terms.

You view the guide below, and as a PDF here https://npna.ca/land-use-translation-guide/

#### NORTH PARK PLANNING GUIDE

Planning language can be hard to understand, and there are so many policies that apply to North Park that it can be hard to know what is allowed, what isn't. and how it all fits together. We've put together this guide to help you understand planning in North Park.

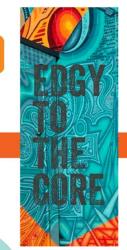
There are several policies that affect the growth and development of the North Park neighbourhood: the Official Community Plan (OCP); the North Park Local Area Plan (LAP): the Downtown Core Area Plan (DCAP); and an upcoming LAP for Villages and Corridors, which will affect the North Park Village and

#### **OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN (OCP)**

An OCP is a document that municipalities are required by law to write. They are the guiding policy document for a city over the next 20+ years. They are not meant to be overly prescriptive, but rather guide the direction of development and growth. For example, an OCP may set out broad goals such as "support the development of affordable rental housing". Then, the municipality would write more specific/prescriptive policies and strategies specific to housing.

An OCP is written over the span of 1-2 years, and usually involves rigorous engagement and consultation with the residents of the municipality. The OCP is meant to represent the vision of how the residents want their community to look as it moves into the future.

that happens within the municipality must also conform to the goals/policies set out in the OCP. Victoria's OCP was adopted by Council in 2012; If a proposal does not align, the Council may vote you can find it online here. The focus of the OCP against the proposal, or may vote to amend the is to maintain the downtown core as the heart of OCP to accommodate the proposal in question. For the region, while developing neighbourhoods into example, there may be a proposal for a mixed-use vibrant, walkable villages. There is an emphasis on development in an area that the OCP has designated sustainable transportation and recognizes that each as "residential", which would not support any neighbourhood has a unique character. commercial use. However, perhaps the proposal

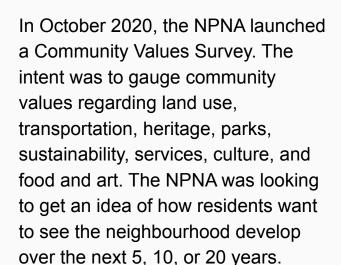


meets other OCP goals, such as affordable housing provisions or building complete neighbourhoods. In that case. Council could vote to amend the OCP so A city's OCP and bylaws must align. Any development that the area is designated as "mixed use" or similar.

# **Community Values Survey**







The survey also collected demographic data to compare with census data for the neighbourhood and to understand how different sub-populations view specific issues.

# **Community Values Survey**



The survey consisted of 51 questions on SurveyMonkey. The survey was shared via social media, the NPNA newsletter, the NPNA website, and a postcard with instructions to complete was mailed to every North Park resident. Postcards were also delivered by hand to businesses in the neighbourhood. Community members could also request paper copies to complete. A total of 258 responses were collected, representing 7.2% of North Park's total population.

The results of the survey have been analyzed and summarized and can be found on the NPNA website. The results of the survey have already been used to support several grant applications as well as in correspondence to the City of Victoria regarding various land use and social issues.

You can view all of the results here: <a href="https://npna.ca/community-values-survey/">https://npna.ca/community-values-survey/</a>

#### Land Use Committee

In the Community Values Survey, an optional question asked respondents if they would be interested in joining the NPNA Land Use Committee. Approximately 30 people expressed interest and provided their email address. In early 2021, Land Use Committee (chaired by board member, Harold Stanley and facilitated by Eleni and Sarah) began meeting on a monthly basis.

The LUC's role is set out by the City of Victoria in Terms of Reference which can be found on our <u>website</u>. While the primary role of the Community Association Land Use Committees (CALUCs) as set by the City is to facilitate community meetings and community feedback with proponents of land use developments, the NPNA has expanded their LUC role to include some proactive advocacy work on land use and transportation issues that are important to the neighbourhood.

Several meetings have been held and issues of concern have been related to

- transportation/pedestrian safety,
- traffic, and
- noise issues.

The advocacy work of the LUC will be guided by the expressed needs and wants of the community, determined both through ongoing conversations and correspondence between the NPNA and the neighbourhood, and by the Community Values Survey.

If you are interested in joining the Land Use Committee, please visit the Volunteer Opportunities page on our website.

# North Park's Local Area Plan update

The City of Victoria has been undergoing a process to update their Local Area Plans (LAPs), which are planning documents for the neighbourhood levels. The focus of the process has been "Villages and Corridors", with much of the focus within North Park being on North Park Village and the primary corridors such as Quadra St and Cook St.

The City has continued to engage with the public taking into account public health restrictions on gathering. Most of the engagement has been in the form of online surveys, videos, and presentations, posters and mail outs to residents, and some in-person engagement in early 2020 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City also provided materials for a "meeting in a box", where community members could guide casually facilitated conversations about the local area planning, and the notes were sent to the City.

The most recent engagement phase ended in March 2021. After review and analysis by staff, further engagement will open in late Spring 2021, with a presentation to Council scheduled for later in 2021.

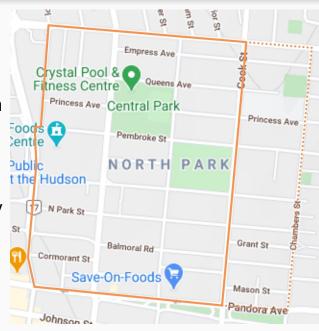






# Neighbourhood Boundary Updates

In February, Victoria City Council held a workshop about potential changes to some neighbourhood boundaries. After discussion Council proposed that the boundary between Fernwood and North Park be amended. They proposed that the area from Cook to Chambers between Pandora and Bay be removed from Fernwood and included in North Park. This would not impact current zoning or Official Community Plan land use designations in any way. Council subsequently directed the City's Neighbourhoods Team (Michael Hill, Kimberley Stratford, and Gary Pemberton) to consult with residents, businesses, and services, in the affected area, as well as the Fernwood and North Park neighbourhood associations, on the proposed changes and to report back to Council by the end of September 2021.



As our Land Use Chair said at the Fernwood land use meeting on March 4, North Park is not trying to invade Fernwood! We want to assure you as our neighbours, that we are not leading this initiative, we were also surprised at this proposal, and that we do not have any preconceived notions about the outcome. For updates on the consultation process visit the <u>Neighbourhoods page</u> of the City's website.

# 2020 Development Applications in North Park

There were no new development (rezoning or development permit) applications in North Park in 2020. Several projects were brought forward for Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) and/or projects that had been in the queue with the City were moved forward in the approvals process.

#### SOLID - 1802 Cook St/A-1056 North Park St

In the fall of 2020, SOLID Outreach applied for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for 3 years to allow for marijuana dispensing for medical purposes from their location at A-1056 North Park Street/1802 Cook St. The proposal went to Council, who took neighbourhood comments into account and approved the TUP for 18 months, with the option to renew the permit at that time. The current TUP will expire in April 2022.

#### Wellburns Site - 1518 Cook St/1050 Pandora Avenue

In 2019, proponents submitted an application for rezoning, heritage alteration permit, and development permit to build a 6-storey mixed use residential and commercial development. Throughout 2020, the proponents for the development at 1518 Cook St/1050 Pandora Ave made several revisions to their proposal based on their conversations with staff. In December 2020, the project went forward to a Public Hearing at which time Council approved the rezoning, heritage alteration permit, and development permit. The next steps of the project will be for the proponent to apply for a building permit and begin construction.

# 2020 Development Applications in North Park continued

#### Tiny Home Community - 940 Caledonia Avenue

In January 2021, it was announced that the City of Victoria, Aryze Developments, and the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness were partnering to build a 30-unit village of tiny homes, meant to provide housing for the homeless population. The proposal involves 30 shipping container homes, with common washrooms and a cooking area, located at 940 Caledonia Ave or the Royal Athletic Park parking lot. Aryze applied for a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) for the project, with the intention for the homes to be removed in September 2022. The proposal went through an accelerated review and public input process. On March 18th, 2021, the proposal went to a Public Hearing, after which Council unanimously approved the TUP and Development Permit. Construction is scheduled to commence immediately, with completion and move-in at the end of April. The site will be operated by Our Place Society.

#### A note on 926/930 Pandora Avenue

From 2017-2019, developers Kang and Gill had proposed and applied for a Rezoning and Development Permit for an 11-storey mixed use building including 5 townhouses fronting Mason Street. The proposal went to Public Hearing in April 2019 but stalled at that time. In early 2020, it was announced that the City of Victoria had purchased the site from Kang and Gill and intended to use it to address the affordable housing crisis in the City/region. No further details on the City's plans have been publicly released.

# BC Housing purchases 953-959 Balmoral

On March 24, 2021 BC Housing announced that it is working with the City of Victoria, and the Victoria Cool Aid Society (Cool Aid), on a plan to build approximately 60 new permanent homes with support services for people who are marginalized and experiencing homelessness at 953-959 Balmoral Road. Currently, Cool Aid owns 959 Balmoral Road and will become the operator of the new building.

This purchase is part of a plan to build housing solutions for those in need and is one of six new projects that will deliver more than 280 permanent supportive homes for people experiencing homelessness across the Capital region.

- mailer sent to nearby residents on March 24, 2021
- <u>information sheet</u> on "positive flow"
- website dedicated to property



The NPNA has expressed some concerns about the concentration of supportive housing in North Park, and will be requesting that BC Housing involve the community in determining the type of supportive housing that is offered at this site.

# What's Ahead in 2021

#### What's Ahead in 2021

#### 2021 Scheduled events and programs

- Monthly North Park Food Markets
  - (see calendar on <u>recreation page</u> for dates)
- Monthly community meetings
  - (see <u>agendas & minutes page</u> for dates and Zoom links)
- Weekly grocery hamper distribution to 75+ households
  - (contact <u>executivedirector@npna.ca</u> if you would like to receive a hamper or volunteer)
- April 12, 2021: Mulch, Compost, Woodchip distribution in Franklin Green and Garden work party
- May 31, 2021: Get Growing, Victoria Spring Vegetable seedling distribution (<u>learn more here</u>)
- Tuesdays until April 30, 4-9pm: Free drop in laundry for unhoused folks @ Laundrolounge at 1309 Cook
   Street
  - This event is a continuation of a program run by the Indigenous Harm Reduction Team (IHRT) and Poverty Kills for nearly a year. This weekly program offers free, drop in laundry to folks experiencing homelessness. The NPNA worked with the program organizers to re-apply for funding from the CRD to continue the weekly laundry program on until the end of April 2021.



### What's Ahead in 2021

#### 2021 Events and programs in development/continuation

- Continuation of weekly grocery hamper and monthly food market
  - Funding source: City of Victoria, Strategic Plan Grant 2.0, Covid stream (received July 2020)
  - Funding source: Second Harvest Grant (submitted February 2021)
- Free programs and recreation in Royal Athletic Park
  - o Funding source: City of Victoria, Strategic Plan Grant (submitted January 2021)
- Distributed community centre activations of streetscapes and greenspaces
- Murals and art projects
- Free, drop in playgroup
  - Funding source: BC Healthy Communities Grant (submitted March 2021)
- Needs Assessment with UVic researcher
  - Funding source: VIHA Healthy Communities Grant (received October 2020)

What are your ideas!? What do you want to see happen in North Park in 2021?

# Ways to get involved!

Attend a monthly meeting on Zoom

Join the Land Use Committee

Become a member and receive bi-weekly newsletters

Check out the <u>volunteer</u> <u>opportunities</u>

See what <u>events and programs</u> are happening in North Park

Ask a question or suggest an event by emailing <a href="mailto:npna@npna.ca">npna@npna.ca</a>

Apply for a My Great
Neighbourhood Grant through
the City of Victoria





SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2021 MARKETS

**FEBRUARY 21** 

MARCH 21

**APRIL 18** 

MAY 16

JUNE 20

JULY 18

AUGUST 15

# THE NPNA POP-UP FOOD MARKET

A MONTHLY MINI MARKET FEATURING ROTATING LOCAL FOOD VENDORSI

ROYAL ATHLETIC PARK (1014 CALEDONIA AVE) 10:30AM-1:30PM FREE!

SEE YOU AT THE MARKET

THANK YOU! @CITYOFVICTORIA

# Thank you!

We would love to hear from you!

Board: board@npna.ca

Land Use chair: caluc@npna.ca

Sarah, executive director: executivedirector@npna.ca

Eleni, Land Use Planning Advisor <u>landuse@npna.ca</u>

Website: www.npna.ca

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram:

@WeAreNorthPark

