



May 2021 Update North Park

In Your Neighbourhood

Balmoral Street Supportive Housing

One of BC Housing’s four new housing facilities is to be located in the North Park neighbourhood at 953 Balmoral Street. Victory Cool Aid Society will operate the site which will include 60 self-contained studio apartments. BC Housing will be hosting information sessions for neighbourhood residents on May 10 from 5:30 to 7:00pm and on May 11 from 2:30 to 4:00pm. To register, go to <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/victoria-953-balmoral>

My Great Neighbourhood Grants

The neighbourhood grant program is open for applications. The City provides up to \$5,000 in matching funds for placemaking and community recovery projects and up to \$1,000 for activities. There is significant interest in the program this year and prospective applicants are encouraged to apply soon. City staff are available to help residents through this process. For more information go to <https://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/neighbourhoods/my-great-neighbourhood-grant-program.html>



Neighbourhood Boundaries

The public survey on neighbourhood boundary changes launches on Monday, May 10 and will be open for four weeks. Residents can go to the City’s Have Your Say webpage to complete the survey. Respondents will select each boundary question and indicate to what degree they agree or disagree on a sliding scale. More information is being posted onto the site to provide context and answer frequently asked questions.



<https://engage.victoria.ca/neighbourhood-boundaries>





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Build Back Victoria

Build Back Victoria is a program initiated by the City to provide businesses and other organizations access to public space. COVID 19 measures limited congregation in closed spaces and the program's intent was to provide open space that would support business viability. A recent staff report to Council on the program to date indicated its success and made recommendations for further development of the program through to the fall of 2021. To read the report, go to: <https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=66662>.

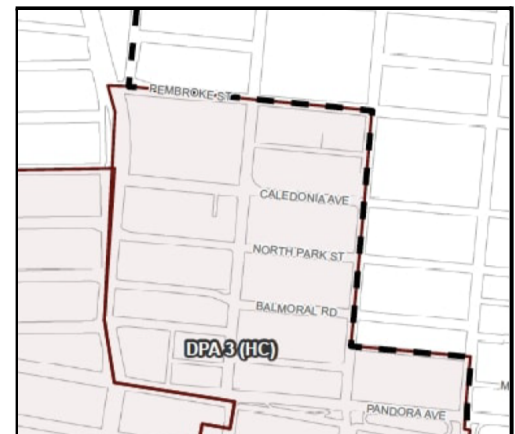
Official Community Plan Update

The Official Community Plan, or OCP, is the high-level policy document that provides context and a basis for City decision-making. In recent years, the City has engaged the community to create other citywide plans that focus on other priorities. These include the Climate Leadership Plan, Go Victoria, Sustainable Mobility Strategy, the Transgender, Non-Binary and Two-Spirit + Inclusion Action Plan, Accessibility Framework and Victoria 3.0 – the City's economic action plan for recovery and resilience.

The current update to the OCP is intended on bringing several of its chapters up to date and align them with the plans identified above, as well as to better represent the community's shared values on these important topics. Have your say during this first phase of early engagement and residents can complete a survey on the initial proposed changes at engage.victoria.ca/ocp.

Downtown Core Area Plan

The draft Design Guidelines for the Downtown Core Area Plan are now complete and a public survey closed on Friday May 7. The Guidelines are intended to provide clear direction to property developer constructing or renovating buildings within the area. A significant portion of North Park lies within the Downtown Core Area boundaries. For more information go to



<https://engage.victoria.ca/downtown-core-area-plan-design-guidelines>.

Tiny Homes Village

The Tiny Homes Village project is nearing completion with occupancy beginning on May 12. As part of efforts to ensure the facility integrates well with the neighbourhood, a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is being established. Members from supporting organizations and the neighbourhood have now been selected. Resident representatives of the Tiny Homes Village will be identified once the facility is operating. The first



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meeting of the CAC will be from 6:00 to 7:30pm on May 25 or 26 (TBD) and the public is welcome to attend this first meeting.

For more information, visit www.victoriahomelessness.ca/tinyhomes.

Strengthening Communities Services Grant

The City has applied to a provincial funding program to support the various initiatives for addressing homelessness. Criteria for the grant program includes that evidence of need in the community is demonstrated, that proposed initiatives respond to immediate needs for sheltering homeless and that the funding cover expenses between September 2020 and August 2022.

Specific initiatives in the City's submission include:

- Tiny Homes Project
- Outdoor Sheltering in Parks – Temporary Service Supports
- Additional Bylaw and Peer Outreach Resources
- Additional Protective Services Resources (i.e. 4 VicPD officers)
- Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness – Move-in Mobilization and Welcoming Neighbourhoods Mobilization
- Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness – Outreach Services and Supports
- Burnside Gorge Community Association – Community Integration and Inclusion Working Group, Improved Safety, and Clean and Safe Team
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Pilot of Civilian-Led Mobile Mental Health Crisis Team

Community Virtuals

The final lunch and learn session before a summer recess will focus on the City's new Placemaking Toolkit. The new toolkit will be a resource guide to support community initiatives that create engaging public places and improve the quality of life in neighbourhoods. Join our panel of experts to discuss all things placemaking at this free discussion on Wednesday, May 19, noon – 1:30 p.m. To register or view video recordings of previous sessions on art, gardening and emergency preparedness, visit <https://engage.victoria.ca/community-virtuals>.

City Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on May 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 9:00am with Council evening meetings on May 13 and 27 at 6:30pm.