



# June 2021 Update North Park

## In Your Neighbourhood

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### Balmoral Street Supportive Housing

Information sessions on the social housing at this site were held on May 10 and 11. While there were some concerns most of the attendees at the sessions were supportive of the housing site. Construction is expected to begin in March 2022 with the new facility opening in the summer. You can find more information about the Balmoral Street facility and keep up to date on the formation of the Community Advisory Committee at <https://letstalkhousingbc.ca/victoria-953-balmoral>

### Welcoming City Strategy

The City of Victoria is currently creating a Welcoming City Strategy that will serve as a roadmap to guide Victoria towards becoming a stronger, more inclusive community where everyone feels like they belong. It's intended to remove barriers to City services and foster a compassionate and neighbourly community. Do you feel a sense of welcome and belonging? What would make you feel more like you belong here? Whether you are newcomer to Victoria or a long-time resident, we invite you to your stories, ideas and participate in online engagement activities between now and the end of June.

<https://engage.victoria.ca/help-make-victoria-a-welcoming-city>



### Strategic Plan Grants

On Thursday June 10, Council will consider recommendations for the Strategic Plan Grants awards provided by an external review committee. There were 67 submissions for requests ranging from \$2,800 to \$95,200. In North Park, the committee has recommended that the North Park Neighbourhood Association \$7,500. You can find the complete report including project proposals here:

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=a21c67b1-7ff3-4184-bac4-78d3d85e33f8&Agenda=Merged&lang=English&Item=12&Tab=attachments>

### Parks and Open Spaces Plan

On June 3, Council was presented with a 2020 progress report on Parks and Open Spaces and Urban Forest Master Plan achievements. The report noted that COVID 19 pandemic significantly impacted City operations in 2020, including the Parks division, where resources were directed towards supporting the City's emergency response and public safety priorities, in particular, the homelessness crisis.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=68291>

### VTAG (Victoria Together Against Graffiti) Returns

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CITY OF VICTORIA | North Park  
Neighbourhood Councillor: Sarah Potts [spotts@victoria.ca](mailto:spotts@victoria.ca)  
Neighbourhood Staff Contact: Michael Hill [mhill@victoria.ca](mailto:mhill@victoria.ca)





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The City of Victoria is pleased to announce that this volunteer program for removing unsightly graffiti tags on BC Hydro equipment in your neighbourhood has resumed operation. The City and BC Hydro have recently signed off on an annual agreement to allow volunteers to “Own the Block” and remove tags on both power poles and utility boxes owned by BC Hydro. The agreement means that citizens can once again access a free graffiti removal carrying kit, replete with two colour matched paint cans for pressure treated and non-pressure treated poles, a brush, opener, stir stick and set of gloves to remediate tags in their neighbourhood. For more info on how to get connected with VTAG and access your kit, contact [gpemberton@victoria.ca](mailto:gpemberton@victoria.ca).

## My Great Neighbourhood Grants

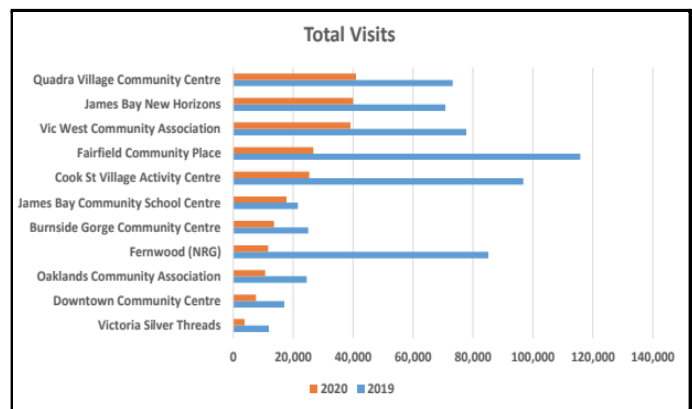
The neighbourhood grant program is open for applications. The City provides up to \$5,000 in matching funds for placemaking and community recovery projects and up to \$1,000 for activities. There is significant interest in the program this year and prospective applicants are encouraged to apply soon. 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>

## Community Centres Report

On June 3, Council received a report on Victoria’s Community Centres. The City owns seven community centres and two seniors’ centres and contributes funding toward a lease for a third seniors’ centre. The City also provides an operating grant for the Downtown Community Centre, which is owned by the Province and operated by the Victoria Cool Aid Society. The centres are all operated by non-profit agencies, of which seven are neighbourhood associations. All the agencies provide community recreation and social programming on behalf of the



City. Of the 13 neighbourhoods, nine have community centres. The James Bay and Fairfield neighbourhoods have both a community centre and a seniors’ centre - *from the report*.

<https://pub-victoria.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=68289>





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### Neighbourhood Boundaries



The public survey period on neighbourhood boundary changes closes on June 18. 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>

### Participatory Budgeting

Stay tuned mid-June for an announcement about this year's Participatory Budgeting Process. The community-based Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee will be seeking proposals for \$50,000 to be invested for projects that enhance and enrich neighbourhood spaces throughout Victoria. Participatory Budgeting gives the entire community the opportunity to participate and decide how to invest a portion of the City budget in projects that matter to the people who live here. You can learn about Participatory Budgeting at [www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/city-grants/participatory-budgeting.html](http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/residents/city-grants/participatory-budgeting.html).

### Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets on June 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 9:00am with Council evening meetings on June 10 and 24 at 6:30pm.

If you are interested in knowing how the councillors voted on anything, you can now see and track Council voting records with the City [Council Meeting Dashboard](#).