

Official Community Plan Update



Updates to the Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan, or OCP, is the high-level policy document that guides decisions like:

Where will new housing and businesses be located?

How will our transportation systems function? And how should we respond to climate change? The OCP provides a vision for Victoria in 2041, and goals, objectives, and policies to get us there. Part of regular maintenance of the OCP includes updating the plan, often through comprehensive local area planning processes. In recent years, we have also engaged the community to create other city-wide plans that focus on other priorities. They 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 – our economic action plan for recovery and resilience.

We are now updating the OCP to align it with these plans which represent the community's shared values on these important topics. All of the amendments will help us respond to emerging issues like the housing crisis and improve clarity and understanding of the OCP. This is your Official Community Plan. Have your say during this first phase of early engagement. More specific information and questions will be available in the next round of engagement. Please visit [Official Community Plan Update | Have Your Say \(victoria.ca\)](https://victoria.ca/OfficialCommunityPlanUpdate).



New Cultural Infrastructure Grant

The City of Victoria has launched the new Cultural Infrastructure Grant with \$125,000 to support Victoria-based, non-profit arts and cultural organizations in 2021. Non-profit organizations can apply for up to \$25,000 for physical

infrastructure upgrades, equipment and land purchase or up to \$10,000 for a planning or feasibility study to help build organizational capacity in areas including business development, real-estate development, facilities planning and architecture. Applicants can apply for only one type of funding support. The Cultural Infrastructure Grant encourages artist collaboration and the sharing of non-profit art facilities and resources between diverse artistic mediums and cultural communities. Applicants can submit either individual or joint applications for one type of funding only. The deadline for submissions is May 31, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. To learn more, visit victoria.ca/CIG

City Accelerates Infrastructure Renewal

You may have noticed crews breaking ground in late April on renewal of critical infrastructure, with funding support of \$15.3 million from the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund. 2021 DMAF underground infrastructure renewal projects include Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement on Cook Street - Hilda to McClure (Spring 2021)

- Stormwater Main Replacement Superior Street – Oswego to Menzies (Spring 2021) and Dallas Road – west of St. Charles Street (Summer 2021)
- Water Main Replacement Yates Street - Quadra to Cook (Summer/Fall 2021) and Cook Street - Yates to Pandora (Summer/Fall 2021)

Local residents and businesses will be notified in advance of the work, and resident access will be maintained during any temporary road closures. The City is coordinating works with other



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improvements such as road paving, sidewalk replacements and accessibility upgrades, and will use less disruptive construction methods, including trenchless rehabilitation whenever possible.

Budget 2021 Supports Well-Being and Economic Recovery

The City's 2021 Budget is keeping tax increases low while making strategic investments to maintain services, and support residents and businesses in rebuilding and recovery. On April 22, Council adopted Budget 2021, which invests over \$260 million to deliver more than 200 core programs and services and delivers on Council's strategic plan. In addition, the budget invests \$104 million in capital improvements to city infrastructure that people depend on. Capital spending is a boost to the local economy through the procurement of local goods and services. The City received more than \$6.5 million from the Federal-Provincial Restart Grant, which has helped to make up some of the revenue shortfalls brought on by the pandemic. In addition, City staff are implementing a number of cost-saving measures, keeping the overall tax increase this year to 2.03 per cent – below Council's target of inflation plus one per cent.

Focus areas for the budget include allocating \$660,000 to the Affordable Housing Reserve which helps to leverage investment in affordable housing from the provincial and federal governments. As well, investments will be made in the maintenance, repair and improvement of City infrastructure. In 2021, the City will invest \$24.5 million to improve city streets, fill potholes, upgrade crosswalks and sidewalks, traffic calming and investments to make the city more walkable and safer for cyclists and pedestrians. An investment of \$33.7 million will continue the renewal of essential underground infrastructure including aging water mains, sanitary sewers and storm drains.

Economic recovery and resiliency are also at the top of the list in this year's budget. The South Island Prosperity Partnership will receive close to \$220,000 to support their work collaborating with government, First Nations and private sector partners to accelerate recovery and build a resilient, diversified economy on the South Island. The City will also allocate more than \$459,000 to support economic development and recovery to implement the *Victoria 3.0 Recovery Reinvention Resilience Economic Action Plan*, work with stakeholders to create an Oceans Future Hub, taking shape as the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST), and continue to make it easier for new and existing businesses to do business in Victoria.

Through its Climate Leadership Plan, the City will invest up to an additional \$350,000 in 2021 to top up CleanBC's Better Homes and Home Renovation Rebate Program, that encourages homeowners to transition from oil to electric heat pump heating. Climate action will also include the continued transitioning of the City's fleet to electric vehicles, in addition to \$175,000 for public EV charging stations. An additional \$95,000 will be invested in 2021 to install more zero waste stations.

The City is investing \$4.5 million to replace the artificial turf field at Topaz Park. Further improvements include \$600,000 to replace the playground equipment at Stadacona Park and \$85,000 will fund preliminary design work to install new lighting at Vic West Skate Park. An investment of \$2.8 million will substantially improve and expand Songhees Park on the west side of the Johnson Street Bridge. This year will also see the design for the new sc̓əmaθən Peter Pollen Waterfront Park, improvements to Pemberton Park, and expansion of the Banfield Park dock.



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Victoria's neighbourhood associations, community associations and seniors centres will receive \$1.5 million in funding to deliver important services and programs to residents and help make the community healthier and age-friendly for seniors. There will be a continued focus on public safety with \$60.89 million for police services, \$18.68 million for fire services and \$2.77 million in bylaw and licensing services.

Also, in line with Victoria's Strategic Plan, the City will continue to seek deeper and more engagement with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, including with both hereditary and elected chiefs. As part of this work, \$37,500 has been allocated to scope out potential future positions to advance a new Indigenous Relations and Elders in Residence Function in 2022. The Victoria Reconciliation Dialogues series will continue once large-scale public events can be held again.

Personalized Bylaw Enforcement Strategy Supports People Moving Inside

On April 20, Council released a closed meeting report containing a strategy for enforcement of prohibited daytime sheltering as of May 1. The report outlines an individualized approach to support people who have accepted indoor spaces. People who accept an offer for housing and are preparing to move from parks will not be required to pack up daily. Bylaw officers will allow time for moving into the transitional housing locations and will assist with downsizing belongings. When indoor spaces are ready, Bylaw and outreach workers will assist people with packing their items in totes and helping people move. People sheltering outdoors will begin moving into transitional housing in Vic West starting the first week of May and at the Tiny Homes Village near Royal Athletic Park the following week. Together these sites will house about 100 people. BC Housing will be offering people a spot in either location this week.

Effective May 1, people who do not accept an offer will be required to take down, pack up and remove their tent and belongings daily by 7 a.m. Any tent or property unlawfully left in place after 7 a.m. will be subject to impound and can be retrieved through Bylaw Services.

What's Up at Council?

	Committee of the Whole (COTW) 9:00 a.m.	(Closed) Council Meeting After COTW meetings as required	Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
May	6 th , 13 th , 20 th , & 27 th	6 th , 13 th , 20 th , & 27 th	13 th & 27 th

Decisions made at Council can be found on our [Council Highlights](#) page. 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](#).

Temporary Relocation of Council Meetings

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings will be held at the Capital Regional District Board room between March 11 and June 15, 2021 to allow for HVAC work to occur at City Hall to improve air quality.

