

### In Your Neighbourhood

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#### Community Virtuals

The City is continuing with the [Community Virtuals](#) presentation series in 2021 with the upcoming topic of the **Placemaking Toolkit – Wednesday, May 19, noon – 1:30 p.m.** Have you 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. [Register here](#). You can also view past Community Virtual sessions on the City website.



#### Neighbourhood Boundaries Next Steps

Staff are preparing to engage with residents beginning May 10<sup>th</sup> and will be provided with an opportunity to offer their input on the proposed boundary changes that relate to their neighbourhoods. A report will then be provided to Council by September, 2021.

You can view the Council Led Workshop – Neighbourhood Boundaries agenda item and Council's discussion at the February 4 meeting [here](#).

A subsequent Council discussion (including specific resolutions) was held on February 25, which you can view [here](#).

#### UPDATE: CRD Project in Cecelia Ravine Park

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is conducting sewer line renewal along the Galloping Goose Trail through Cecelia Ravine Park. The construction timeline for the project, which began in March 2021, has been extended and is scheduled for completion in mid-June with some restoration work to follow.

An area near the playground and part of the parking lot will remain fenced off during the project so crews can access the sewer line. Park visitors will continue to have access to the playground at all times. For your safety, please stay clear of the work area and follow any requests from the on-site supervisor.



## April 2021 Update

# Burnside Gorge

For more information about the project, please contact the CRD or visit: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/capital-projects/northwest-trunk-sewer-lining-along-galloping-goose>

### Camping in Parks and Addressing Homelessness

On May 1, camping in parks will return to previous bylaw restrictions of night-time only (7pm-7am). At their March 18 Council meeting, Council also instructed 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.

Related to this, the Province and the City of Victoria have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that formalizes their commitment to work together to end current homeless encampments and help prevent encampments in the future. The MOU clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Province and City in securing accommodation for people currently living outside to decamp parks and other public spaces by April 30, 2021.

As part of the MOU, the City is to take the lead on managing sites when encampments are dismantled, in co-ordination with BC Housing and other partners. This includes installing fencing and providing bylaw enforcement to prevent people from moving back into parks. The City will also apply for funding through the new Strengthening Communities' Services Program, which offers grants to local governments to address the impacts of homelessness. In addition, the City is to work with the Capital Regional District to bring forward available land and buildings for housing or shelter, and to expedite land use decisions necessary to rapidly respond to housing need. The Province will work with the city and other partners to develop temporary and permanent housing options to meet community needs.

For more information about temporary sheltering in parks, visit [victoria.ca/sheltering](https://victoria.ca/sheltering).

### Build Back Victoria Supports Local Business

Since its start last spring, Build Back Victoria has issued over 150 temporary permits to help businesses adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and safely expand their operations with flex spaces, patios, mobile vending and loading zones. "Build Back Victoria is about supporting businesses and creating more pedestrian friendly public space for residents and visitors when they return," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Providing quick and flexible permits through the Build Back Victoria program is supporting economic recovery for businesses and allows them to safely operate in public spaces in a way that is bringing more vibrancy and vitality to the city. The program is not only helping businesses weather the pandemic, it's also shown us what's possible for our city and the public spaces we all share."

When the program was extended to October 2021, Council directed staff to engage with the public and businesses on Build Back Victoria initiatives to collect insights and feedback. Staff engaged key stakeholders and conducted a survey that received more than 780 responses and over 8,700 comments, the majority of which, were in favour of the program continuing.

The spring and summer program will launch in early June and include new streetscape features and a pedestrian-priority zone on Government Street from Humboldt Street to View Street from noon to 10 p.m. daily.



## April 2021 Update

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The timed daily closure will create inviting public space for pedestrians, cyclists and pedicabs in the afternoon and evening while still allowing for vehicle circulation, commercial pick-up and delivery functions on Government Street each morning. New loading zones and accessible parking stalls will also be installed on and adjacent to the corridor. Council has also directed staff to introduce a requirement for accessibility in flex spaces to take effect by July 1, 2021.

New welcoming features will include wood picnic tables and benches, planters and flowers, gateway improvements, signage and playable street elements like public seating that doubles as performance platforms. These treatments advance Council's strategic objective for creating a pedestrian-priority Government Street and will inform the longer-term streetscape design.

Learn more about the Build Back Victoria program at [victoria.ca/bizresources](https://victoria.ca/bizresources).

### Have Your Say: 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 [engage.victoria.ca/ocp](https://engage.victoria.ca/ocp).

### Free Garden Materials Collection Begins April 12



Get your home garden off to a healthy start with free garden materials as part of the City's Get Growing, Victoria! program. Leaf mulch, compost and wood chips produced at the Parks yard in Beacon Hill Park will be delivered to neighbourhood locations for residents to collect between April 12 and April 18, 2021. Please bring your own container and shovel. Thank you for wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing at all times during collection. Learn more and view the schedule: [victoria.ca/getgrowing](https://victoria.ca/getgrowing)

### New Cultural Infrastructure Grant Program Launches

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.

"Supporting affordable and accessible cultural spaces is a key foundational element of every thriving arts and culture scene," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "Cultural spaces are a nexus for creative work and play opportunities as well as economic development. Providing funding opportunities now – as arts and culture organizations are struggling a year into the pandemic – will increase Victoria's supply of cultural spaces and improve existing facilities so when we can gather again residents and visitors can continue to experience more art, more often, in safe, accessible spaces."

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. Interested artists are invited to attend an online information session on April 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. To register, please email [culture@victoria.ca](mailto:culture@victoria.ca). To learn more, visit [victoria.ca/CIG](https://victoria.ca/CIG).

### Governance Review

As part of their 2021 Strategic Plan, at their April 1 Committee meeting, Council will be considering a staff report recommending that Council direct staff to initiate the procurement process for selecting consultant services for a Governance Review and report back to Council with the workplan once the consultant is selected. The Governance Review will consider such themes as embedding equity into governmental processes, transparency, specific roles of Council (What is the role of councillors as a neighbourhood liaison?) and building public trust.

### Connect and Prepare

If you are inspired by the Community Virtual session, you may want to take advantage 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 in shared emergency supplies. Find more information [here](#).

### BYOBAG

The City of Victoria's revised Checkout Bag Bylaw has come back into effect April 15th, 2021. This means businesses in Victoria will no longer be providing single-use plastic checkout bags and paper bags will have a minimum fee of 25 cents. You can help our local businesses by remembering to bring your clean reusable bags when going shopping!

