



## City Launches *Trees in Cities Challenge*

Date: Friday, January 24, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — On Saturday, January 25 the City of Victoria will plant four Maple trees in Victoria West Park as part of the *Trees in Cities Challenge*, a global campaign launched by the United Nations to promote climate action in cities. The Maple trees to be planted will provide summertime shade for skatepark users as well as other users of Victoria West Park.

Mayor Lisa Helps, Council members and City staff will be in attendance along with members of the City of Victoria's Climate Champions Program, a citizen led, City supported network of champions working to reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions.

### PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

**What:** *Trees in Cities Challenge* Launch and Tree Planting  
**Who:** Mayor and Council, City Staff, media and members of the Climate Champions group  
**When:** Saturday, January 25, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Victoria West Park, event held at the basketball courts on the east side of the skatepark

The City manages an urban forest of approximately 33,000 trees on 300 kilometres of boulevards and in 137 parks and open spaces. The City's Urban Forest Master Plan identifies canopy cover disparities among neighbourhoods and recommends targeting areas of low canopy cover for planting efforts, as well as encouraging opportunities for community members to participate in tree plantings.

Victoria is the first city in Canada to join the *Trees in Cities Challenge*. As part of this global campaign, the City of Victoria will work with the community to plant 5,000 trees on public and private land by the end of 2020.

Residents and groups can join in the *Trees in Cities Challenge* in four easy steps: Pledge to plant, learn about tree health, plant and record your trees and become a tree champion. This can look like planting a tree in your yard, volunteering at a neighbourhood tree planting day and attending free, monthly tree-care workshops offered by the City.

Free workshops in February include, *For the Love of Trees – Walking Tour and Tree Planting*, which will begin in Centennial Square on Saturday, February 8 from 10 a.m. – noon and a *Tree Care and Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop in Fernwood Orchard* on Saturday, February 22 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Parking is available at two Victoria West Park lots accessed from Bay St. and Wilson St. Please use the designated walkways from the parking lots to the event location; we advise to not cross the extremely wet fields. The event will be held rain or shine, and warm refreshments will be served.

Register for workshops online at [www.victoria.ca/recreation](http://www.victoria.ca/recreation). For more information: [www.victoria.ca/treesincities](http://www.victoria.ca/treesincities)

**For more information:**

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