



Connect

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt People.



Hello Neighbour, Renting in the City?

Everyone Deserves a Safe, Healthy Home

As part of the City's ongoing efforts to increase rental housing and support renters, the Rental Property Standards of Maintenance Bylaw establishes standards to ensure the quality, safety and liveability of rental homes in Victoria.

The bylaw addresses maintaining heating systems, repairing water damage or leaks, fire safety, pest control and mold.

This is one measure in a suite of Housing Strategy actions to tackle affordability. The City's bylaw works alongside B.C. Residential Tenancy Act regulations to give Victoria renters the right to a safe and healthy home.

The standards provide clear expectations to landlords and give the Residential Tenancy Branch a framework to measure compliance in Victoria.

The Residential Tenancy Branch is responsible for enforcing the standards and investigating complaints, including the obligations of landlords to maintain a rental property in accordance with the housing standards in the bylaw.

All residential rental properties – rental apartments, rented condo units, secondary suites in private homes and garden suites – are covered under the bylaw. If you own a rental

property, it is important to familiarize yourself with the applicable regulations and ensure they are addressed for your tenants.

If you live in a rental home and something needs to be repaired, let your landlord know in writing as soon as possible. If there are issues that remain unaddressed, contact the Residential Tenancy Branch for advice on next steps. The City's Tenant Assistance Planner is also here to help.

Learn more at: victoria.ca/renters

Got Rental Questions? We Can Help

The City's new Tenant Assistance Planner can help residents with all their rental questions and concerns.

They are here to help you navigate City policies and bylaws related to rental housing and provide information on Provincial Residential Tenancy Act regulations.

Find out more at: victoria.ca/renters

Contact: housing@victoria.ca



Extra Support for Displaced Renters

Victoria's Tenant Assistance Policy guides developers and property owners on the steps they need to take to support tenants forced to move because of a redevelopment.

In addition to requirements outlined in the Provincial Residential Tenancy Act, the policy adds another layer of support by identifying what developers and property owners should provide to eligible tenants.

Compensation is based on the length of a tenancy. It includes such things as moving expenses and the right-of-first refusal for tenants to return to the building once the renovation or redevelopment has been completed at a rent 20 per cent below market for the new units.

Learn more at: victoria.ca/renters

Did you know?

3-in-5 people rent their home in Victoria

Renting Resources

For renters: renters.gov.bc.ca

For landlords: landlordbc.ca

Considering a secondary or garden suite?

Both garden suites and secondary suites are options for creating a rental home on your property.

For more info visit: victoria.ca



Victoria Celebrates Year of the Garden

Gardens and gardening contribute to our quality of life, increase local food security, clean the air and water, and create welcoming places to come together.

The City has proclaimed 2022 as the Year of the Garden, part of a national celebration led by the Canadian Garden Council.

While Victoria may be best known for its beautiful flower displays, the City also supports urban food initiatives and innovative horticultural practices to help the community adapt to a changing climate.

Celebrate the Year of the Garden by visiting one of Victoria's parks, starting a boulevard garden, learning about pollinators and native plants or joining a community garden.

Develop your green thumb in one of our new Growing in the City programs. Learn how to grow your own food and compost like an expert, grow in small spaces, invite pollinators into your yard and care for fruit trees.

To register, visit: victoria.ca/recreation

Growing More Community Gardens

Two new community gardens are coming to Victoria in 2022 – one at Redfern Park in the Jubilee neighbourhood and one at Alston Green in Vic West. Since the launch of the Community Garden Start-Up Grant in 2020, the City has provided \$60,000 in funding to support the design and build of six garden projects.

More info at: victoria.ca/parks

Expanded Songhees Park Takes Shape

Construction nears completion on a new waterfront park in Vic West that will transform a former roadway into a natural haven.

Situated along the Inner Harbour, Songhees Park has been designed in collaboration with the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, with feedback from community groups including the Victoria West Community Association.



Construction continues at Songhees Park

Located on the homelands of the Lekwungen People, it was the site of the first Songhees Reserve from 1844 to 1911.

New features will include:

- Opportunities to enjoy Lekwungen art and learn about Indigenous language and culture
- Places to sit and enjoy spectacular views across the Inner Harbour
- More trees and Indigenous plantings
- Accessible pathways and natural features to encourage play and exploration
- A waterfront viewing platform
- Upgraded lighting, seating and picnic tables

Songhees Park is also an important hub in the City's active transportation network, connecting the Johnson Street Bridge and the downtown core to the Songhees Walkway, the E&N Trail and the Galloping Goose Regional Trail.

The new and improved park will open this summer.

Let's Go, Victoria!

Spring is here and with it comes beautiful weather and the sweet scent of cherry blossoms. There is no better time to explore our growing network of greenways, neighbourhood bike routes and pathways.

Look for new and upgraded crosswalks, accessibility improvements, wider sidewalks, upgraded bus shelters and traffic calming features like roundabouts and speed humps.



New traffic signals are being installed to make it safer for people who walk and cycle to cross busy roads. Spot these new features on streets such as Vancouver, Jackson, Haultain, Kings, Stanley, Richardson, Cedar Hill and Shakespeare.

Government Street is also being transformed between Pandora Avenue and Gorge Road with the addition of new crosswalks, protected bike lanes, street trees, public art and a new parklet. Once complete, these enhancements will attract residents and visitors to Chinatown and beyond.

For more info visit: victoria.ca/govictoria

Topaz Park Gets a Makeover

Two exciting improvements are coming soon.

Construction continues on the new skate and bike parks and work is underway to replace the park's turf sport field. The skate and bike parks will open this summer and include areas for beginners and more experienced riders. Scheduled to open this fall, the expanded sport field will include a full-size soccer pitch, a youth-sized multi-purpose field and a new softball diamond. View the designs at engage.victoria.ca.

The next phase of improvements planned for 2023 will include new pickleball courts, ball diamond upgrades, and an improved dog off-leash area.

Check out the new group skateboarding lessons for kids ages seven to 12 at Vic West Park in May at victoria.ca/recreation.



Summer Memories Start Now

Register for Recreation Programs

Start planning your summer memories with our recreation program guides. Choose a summer camp adventure for the kids, get active in our new outdoor fitness programs or learn to preserve in our new fermenting and canning classes. There's something for everyone!

New summer camps this year include Nature Adventure in Beacon Hill Park, Playground Fun, Ultimate Frisbee and Junior Lifeguard.

Victoria's freshest fitness experience is now open at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre. Enjoy a large open-air fitness space for outdoor bootcamps, circuit training, spin classes, yoga and pilates. With new fitness flooring under a covered area, programs can run rain or shine.

Learn to cook with seasonal ingredients in our Growing in the City programs. Register for our upcoming food workshops to make healthy and delicious meals that highlight the tastes of summer. Options include Hot Water Bath Canning, Fermenting Vegetables, Afro-Caribbean Stew and more.

View the recreation program guides today. Registration for summer camps opened on April 25. Registration for all other programs opens on May 2 at 9 a.m. Spots fill quickly so register early! Register at: victoria.ca/recreation



Apply Now to Bring Life to a Public Space

Have an idea for a project to improve your neighbourhood or an activity to bring residents together?

Apply for up to \$5,000 for placemaking and community resiliency projects and up to \$1,000 for community building activities.

Placemaking projects foster inviting, vibrant neighbourhood spaces for people to connect and share experiences. Community resiliency projects create opportunities to build relationships and support City programs like food security, zero waste and emergency preparedness.

Apply at: victoria.ca/neighbourhoodgrants

Grants Support Return of the Arts and Festival Season

The arts and culture sector, hard hit by the pandemic, is getting a boost. The City is supporting 41 festivals with \$400,000 in Festival Investment Grant funding and in-kind contributions to usher in the return of festival season.

Recipients include the BC Black History Awareness Society, who in August will present the Function Festival, a new two-day arts event celebrating Canadian and international Black, Indigenous and People of Colour musicians. Victoria Pride Week is back, including their parade and festival at MacDonald Park on June 26. The Victoria Symphony also returns with Symphony in the Summer, a week-long celebration of music, culminating with a finale over two days on the Legislative Lawn in July.

In addition to festival grants, the City's new Cultural Infrastructure Grant program will support arts groups with \$250,000 in annual funding, plus an additional \$150,000 in one-time funding in 2022 for accessibility upgrades. This investment will help arts organizations upgrade performance and rehearsal spaces and make venues safer and more accessible for artists and audiences.

Victoria's arts and culture sector contributes \$435.8 million to the local economy and employs 5,588 people in the city. More info at: victoria.ca/grants

Mark Your Calendar

Here is a list of events to help get your summer started!



Highland Games & Celtic Festival

May 21 – 22 at Topaz Park

The full event is back

with pipe bands, drumming, dancing and sporting events.

victoriahighlandgames.com



Festival of Performers & Victoria Day Parade

May 21 – 23

at various locations

Victoria Day Parade – Monday, May 23 on Douglas Street. gvfs.ca



Victoria Pride Week

June 23 – July 2

at various locations

Pride Parade and Festival –

Sunday, June 26.

victoriapridesociety.org



Victoria's Canada Day

July 1

Family-friendly cultural

market and performances

at Ship Point. Fireworks finale over Victoria's Inner Harbour.

canadadayvictoria.ca



Symphony in the Summer

July 25 – August 1

Victoria Symphony and special guests perform during a week-long celebration. victoriasymphony.ca



Harbour Blues 'n Roots Festival

August 25 – 28

Celebrate traditional blues, Chicago-style electric blues, country blues, R&B and soul at Ship Point.

jazzvictoria.ca



Check out **CityVibe** for a listing of fun City-sponsored events this summer.

victoria.ca/cityvibe

A Summer of Music

Take note! Victoria's Music Strategy rolls out with more concerts, a summer playlist celebrating local musicians, an Arts Symposium and more.

CityVibe

Grab your sun hat and festival chair. After the long pandemic hiatus it's going to be a great summer for arts and culture events in Victoria. There's something new to attend every week.

Make your plans with CityVibe, your online guide to summer fun at: victoria.ca/cityvibe

FREE Community Events:

Afternoon Concert Series at Cameron Bandshell

1:30 – 3:20 p.m., Friday to Monday
June – September

Folk Music Series at the Cameron Bandshell

6 – 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, July and August

Lunchtime Concerts at Fort Common

1017 Blanshard Street
Noon – 1 p.m. on Thursdays, June – September

Downtown Concerts

Friday – Sunday, June – September

Broad Street and Government Street Pedestrian Zones,
Fisherman's Wharf Park, Johnson Street Bridge East Plaza

Eventide Music Series

Weekly concerts throughout July and August supporting
local, emerging, and diverse music artists

eventidevictoria.com

Drop-in Community Programming

June – September
Cameron Bandshell, Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre

More than 45 arts and family programs, including swing
dance lessons, drop-in choir and guitar jam sessions.

Summer Music Playlist

Listen to a made-in-Victoria summer playlist while you
shop and play in Victoria this summer.

Available at: victoria.ca/summerplaylist

Victoria Music Symposium

A series of music-focused workshops for musicians
and music professionals.

More info at: victoria.ca/musicsymposium



Sarah Osborne

PHOTO CREDIT TYSON ELDER



The Capital Collective

PHOTO CREDIT COLIN SMITH



New Bins a Zero Waste Success

Well done Victoria! Pitching it in the right bin has saved more than 20 tonnes of compostable organics and recyclables from going to the landfill. That's an impressive result in just one year since the City installed 25 new zero waste stations in downtown and village centres. Doing the right thing will get even easier with more stations coming this year. Learn more about how we can work together to create a community where nothing is wasted at: victoria.ca/zerowaste

Powering a Clean Future

The City's new Electric Vehicle and E-Mobility Strategy will guide the expansion of Victoria's EV charging network and increase options for electric mobility.

In 2022, the City will install more than 100 EV chargers and add new parking options for e-bikes and other personal e-devices downtown. Another 550 are slated to come online by 2027.

EV use in the Capital Region is already one of the highest in Canada, driving us forward to the City's 2050 Climate Leadership goal of having all passenger vehicles registered in Victoria powered by renewable energy.

With public chargers in neighbourhood centres, along the curb and in City parkades, drivers can feel confident to make the EV switch knowing there will be convenient places to charge up close to home or on the move.



Never Miss a Waste Collection Day

Download the Victoria Waste app to receive waste collection reminders.



More info:
victoria.ca/wastecollection

Connect
With Us

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