

In Your Neighbourhood

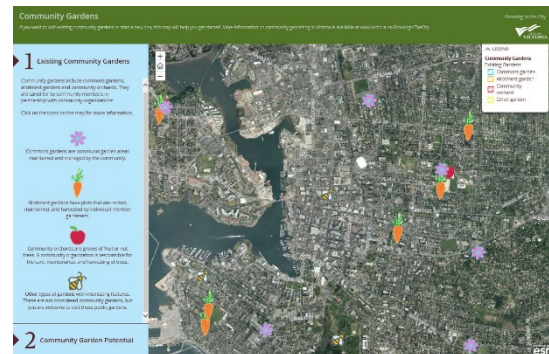
Capital Projects

These capital works projects are slated for your neighbourhood for 2017:

- Storm drain replacement on Roseberry beginning in early October
- Crosswalk upgrade on Cook Street at Haultain Street TBA
- Pedestrian Master Plan on Higgins Street at Cook Street and Hillside Avenue TBA

Community Gardens Map

The City recently launched a new Community Gardens feature map for [VicMap](#). It includes information on existing community gardens and the revised 2017 land inventory for community gardening. A downloadable version of the 2017 land inventory for community gardening, including site data and the methodology overview, is also available [here](#), under “Start a Garden!”



Create Victoria

The City is developing a Cultural Policy and an Arts and Culture Master Plan branded *Create Victoria* to guide the City's investment in arts and culture over the next five years. To help measure the impact of arts and culture in Victoria, the community is invited to participate in an online survey at www.victoria.ca/create until March 31, 2017. Pop up kiosks and a series of cultural cafés with sectors of the arts and culture industry will be coming up in March. The City will come back to the community in mid-June for feedback on the draft Arts and Culture Master Plan.

Visual Victoria

Victoria's downtown public realm plan and city-wide wayfinding strategy is proceeding to its final phases. The summary report from the second phase of the project is now posted on the [City website](#). A public Open House will be scheduled in March to receive comments on the draft plan. The plan will then be finalized for presentation to Council in late April.

Great Neighbourhoods Grants

In preparation for the 2017 [Great Neighbourhoods](#) grant program, City staff met with a group of grant recipients and neighbourhood groups on February 1 to discuss any suggestions they may have to improve the program. All of the great ideas that were brought forward were appreciated and in coming weeks, final recommendations for improving the 2017 program will be prepared.

Training Opportunities

[Leadership Victoria](#) is a voluntary organization with a mission to develop leaders with a passion for building a vibrant community. In addition to a nine month Community Leadership Development program and sponsoring annual Victoria Leadership Awards event, they offer workshops and symposia for developing leadership skills. [Upcoming workshops](#) are three hours long and the cost is \$10.

- *Making Decisions to Make Progress: Improving Board Effectiveness* – Wednesday, March 8 at 9 a.m.
- *Board Governance: Being a Really Good Board Member* – Wednesday, March 8 at 1 p.m.

Neighbourhood Communications

It has been suggested that standard email addresses might ensure consistent communication from the City to neighbourhood associations. If neighbourhood associations adopt, for example, *Board@(neighbourhood association).ca* and *CALUC@(neighbourhood association).ca* as their designated email addresses for City communication, this would allow neighbourhoods to determine who they would like to receive communication and update the contacts as necessary without having to notify the City. Some neighbourhood associations have this in place. For those that don't, it may be something that you want to consider.

Home Renovation Rebates and Heating Oil Tank Incentives

The City of Victoria is partnering with BC Hydro, Fortis BC, the Province and CRD to enhance the Home Renovation Rebate and Oil to Heat Pump Programs, which can have multiple benefits, such as lowering bills, enhancing home values, increasing comfort and making a healthier home. Programs like these, which help lower associated greenhouse gases, also help reduce the impacts from a changing climate.

Thousands of dollars in home renovation rebates are available. The offer include upgrades to hot water and space heating systems, insulation, air sealing, windows and more. Multiple upgrades can be bundled together to increase savings. Those with home heating oil can also consider the B.C. Government's Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program. Now is a great time to consider making the switch to an efficient air source heat pump with a combined incentive of \$2,000 from the Province of BC (\$1,700), the City of Victoria (\$150) and the Capital Regional District (\$150). The offer is only available to City of Victoria residents until July 31, or until funds are exhausted. Making this switch can dramatically lower heating bills and reduce the risk of costly and environmentally damaging spills.

As a City of Victoria resident, homeowners who have an Energy Evaluation may also be eligible to receive free Home Energy Coaching through the Municipal Partner Offer. The coaching will assist you with prioritizing and selecting home energy improvements and choosing the right products and contractors for your needs.

For more information on the Home Renovation Rebate (HRR) Program or the Municipal Partner Offer, visit www.victoria.ca/sustainability or call 1.844.881.9790.

For more information on the Oil to Heat Pump Incentive Program visit www.oiltoheatpump.ca or call 1.877.545.6247.

Council Meetings

Committee of the Whole meets March 9, 16 and 23 at 9 a.m. Council meetings are March 9 and 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. You can attend in person or watch it [online](#). Agendas and minutes can be read [here](#).

Current Initiatives

Keep current with a variety of City-initiated projects underway this year. Find the summary [here](#) and follow the links for more details.