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Strategic Planning - Council's 2019-2022 roadmap

Council has set course on a strategic planning process to help drive the City forward for the next four years. A strategic plan is intended to identify priorities, determine future projects, inform decision making and place focus on the needs and interests of the community.

A draft plan has identified key focus areas under four themes: **Governance Excellence, Environmental Responsibility, Economic Health and Livability.** Public feedback was gathered and work is underway to develop a plan that reflects Council's vision and strengthens the community. Learn more at:

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/StratPlan2019.

Complete Streets - Helping everyone move

In January, the City embarked on a project to implement Complete Streets guidelines for new roads and planned improvements to existing roadways.

Designed to move people, not just cars, Complete Streets aim to accommodate all transportation modes including walking, cycling, transit and driving and help create more livable neighbourhoods that encourage people to travel by foot, bicycle and transit. This initiative meets goals set in the City's Transportation Master Plan. Learn more at: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/CompleteStreets



Did you know?

- June is Active Transportation Month! Bike to Work and School Week runs May 26 to June 2 and the Commuter Challenge runs June 2 to June 8.
- Nanaimo's Active Transportation network is growing! The Georgia Greenway officially opened on April 27! New routes are planned for Metral Dr, Wakesiah Ave and the Boxwood connector.
- Reduce bike theft by registering your bike with the Project 529 website or mobile app at project529.com. To learn more about this program, watch the video on this page: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/cycling

www.nanaimo.ca/newsletter@nanaimo.ca

Official Community Plan - Moving the City forward

This fall, the City will begin a year-long process to review its Official Community Plan (OCP) to see what updates are needed to move the community forward over the next 10 years.

Why should you get involved in the OCP review?

This is an opportunity to provide feedback on an important document that shapes the future of Nanaimo. The new OCP will reflect the community's values and priorities as well as the City's vision to make Nanaimo a community that is livable, environmentally sustainable and full of opportunity for all generations and walks of life.



UPCOMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Plan ahead, Nanaimo! Expect some delays to your commute on the following routes:

- 1 SEVENTH STREET** - Pump station construction will affect commuters on Seventh St between Bruce Ave and Victoria Rd from spring through summer.
- 2 BASTION BRIDGE** - The bridge will be closed to vehicles May 21 to June 28. This renewal project is expected to be complete by the end of August 2019.
- 3 JINGLE POT AND WESTWOOD ROAD** - A new traffic signal and pedestrian and cycling facility improvements will affect traffic early May to the end of summer.
- 4 BRUCE AVENUE** - In June, crews will replace underground utilities and install a new sidewalk and bike lanes on Bruce Ave between Third and Fourth St.
- 5 HAMMOND BAY ROAD** - Expect delays this summer as road widening, slope stabilization and storm sewer work take place near the Pacific Biological Station.
- 6 UPLANDS DRIVE** - In June, watch for water main replacement on Uplands Dr between Departure Bay Rd and Emerald Dr.

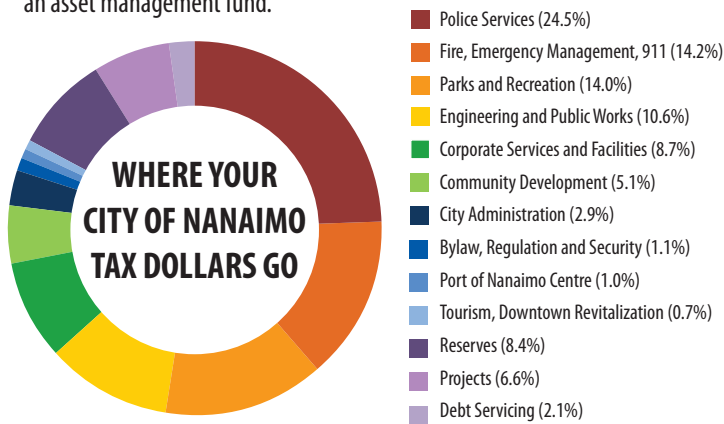
See a list of City construction projects at www.nanaimo.ca/construction

Your tax bill, explained

The City of Nanaimo determines the tax rate based on what we need to balance the budget for the year. Your tax bill is calculated based on your property's assessed value which is determined by BC Assessment, and then by the tax rate plus the parcel tax for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN).

The City collects taxes on behalf of the municipality, as well as on behalf of other authorities (School District 68, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority, RDN and Vancouver Island Regional Library).

The taxes you pay to the City of Nanaimo go toward municipal services, projects and programs that make Nanaimo a liveable community such as clean drinking water, paved roads, recreation centres, parks, police and fire services. The City also takes one per cent of taxes each year and puts them into an asset management fund.



Learn a little bit about how asset management works by watching this video on a pilot project we are involved in with other communities across Canada: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/LAMP.

PAY AND VIEW YOUR TAXES ONLINE

With MyCity, you have 24/7 self-serve access to your tax notices, account payment history, water consumption and current and past bills. You can also sign up for electronic billing. Register today at mycity.nanaimo.ca.

MyCity has a new look too! Learn more by viewing the video on this page: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/MyCity.

LED Conversion- Lighting up savings

As part of the City's commitment to reducing our environmental impact, we have been replacing streetlights with new LED lighting. Consuming less energy and lasting longer, LED lighting is more cost effective than traditional high pressure sodium lighting. For example, Nanaimo's 4,134 City-owned streetlights consume 2,800-megawatt hours of power and cost \$300,000 annually. With LED, that number could drop by as much as 50 per cent!

So far, crews have replaced over 400 lights on Bowen, Terminal and Aulds Roads. The rest will be replaced over 2019 and 2020. Learn more about this project by watching the video on this page: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/LED.

YOUR 2019 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019

Learn how your taxes are distributed, ways to pay, view videos and more by visiting www.nanaimo.ca/goto/taxes.

Reduce or defer your taxes

The **Home Owner Grant** is a great way to reduce the amount of your property tax bill. Eligible homeowners under the age of 65 can reduce their taxes by up to \$770 and up to \$1,045 for seniors. You must claim your grant every year.

You can claim an extension for the prior year from the provincial government if you meet certain qualifications. However, until you claim your grant, your tax bill will remain outstanding. Retroactive grant application forms are valid for the preceding year only and are available from the Property Tax department. Evidence for proof of residency is required.

If you are over the age of 55, widowed, a person with disabilities or a family with children, you may qualify for **property tax payment deferral**. Please note: Deferral is only available on your primary residence; cottages and rental properties do not qualify.

For more information visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/taxes.

Ways to pay your taxes

There are a number of ways you can pay:

- In person with cash, cheque or Interac at the Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.
- By mailing a cheque to 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J6. Payment must be received by July 2, 2019.
- At your bank or through online or phone banking. When paying this way for this first time, search "Nanaimo". The folio number on your tax notice is the account number.
- Through your mortgage company. Make sure their name is listed on the front of your tax notice. You will still need to apply for the Home Owner Grant.
- By pre-authorized payments. For more information on paying monthly for future taxes visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/paws.



Did you know? City-owned streetlights are the ones on metal poles and BC Hydro owns the ones on wooden poles. If you see a light out, report it to public works by calling 250-758-5222, emailing public.worksinfo@nanaimo.ca or use the Nanaimo Recycles App.

Summer FUN in Nanaimo's Parks

Parks and Recreation has a full line-up of FREE community summer events and programs:

- **Concerts in the Park** features a variety of live musical entertainment in Bowen Park (Wed evenings in July; Tues lunch hours in Aug) and Maffeo Sutton Park (Tues lunch hours in July; Wed evenings in Aug).
- **Find the Golden Bucket** contest returns from May to July. Look for the bucket by checking our social media or website for clues. Once you find the bucket, answer the question inside for a chance to win some great prizes.
- Our **Playground Program** features family activities including crafts, games, music and more from July 3 to Aug 28! Check www.nanaimo.ca for locations.
- **Free Family Nights** are held the last Thursday of the month (June in Departure Bay Park, July in Mansfield Park and August in Harewood Park) from 4 to 7 pm.
- Stay cool this summer! Lifeguards are on duty at **Westwood Lake** from 12 to 6 pm, June 23 to Sept 2. **Water parks** are also open 9 am to 8 pm daily in Departure Bay Park, Deverill Square Park, Harewood Park and Mansfield Park.
- Show your national pride at this year's **Canada Day Celebrations** in Maffeo Sutton Park on Monday, July 1 from 11 am to 3:30 pm.

For more details, please visit recreation.nanaimo.ca, call 250-756-5200 or pick up a copy of the Spring and Summer Activity Guide.



Keep your home safe from fire and theft

The arrival of summer usually brings hot, dry weather. Follow these simple steps to make sure you are FireSmart:

- Clear all dead brush, dry debris and other combustibles from within 10 metres around the outside of your home, clean your gutters and keep your lawn short.
- Make sure there are no trees overhanging the roof of your house.
- Clean and maintain your BBQ before using it, and don't leave it unattended while cooking.
- Have working smoke detectors on each floor of your home. Make sure to regularly test the batteries and replace the smoke detector every 10 years.
- Properly extinguish and dispose of all smoking material. Don't throw cigarette butts out the window of your car. This is not only littering, it is also a cause of many wildfires.

STAGE 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT

From May 1 to Sept 30, even-numbered addresses can water on even-numbered days and odd-numbered addresses on odd-numbered days for up to 2 hours between 7 am - 10 am or 7 pm - 10pm. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can be watered any time.

Find more information at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/watering.



Photo courtesy of Marc Walter.

Public art sightings in the city

This summer, look for new additions to parks and walkways. The 2019 temporary public art program features ten works of art from artists and teams across Canada. This year's selection includes pieces from Bryan Faubert, Clasina Van Bommel, Fred Dobbs, Samuel Camp, George Sabra, Angellos Glaros, Maije Lavergne, Marc Walter and Trinita Waller. Marc Walter's "The Nanaimo Leap Project" (pictured above) was installed earlier this spring in Maffeo Sutton Park, and the remaining pieces were put up for Public Art Week, May 13-17.

Find more information visit: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/publicart.

Are you concerned about how susceptible your home may be to theft? Use the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED):

- Trim back bushes that obstruct a view of your doors or windows and try to remove hidden areas.
- Increase lighting and open up the ability to see in or out of your yard and property.
- Keep in touch with your neighbours.
- Start or join a Block Watch in your area.
- Be a connected part of the community you live in.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Nanaimo RCMP website, nanaimo.bc.rcmp-grc.gc.ca is available in both official languages. Find information about available services, contact information and links to the newsroom, Twitter feed and Facebook page - a great way to get information directly from the police.

TRASH TALK

B.Y.O.B - Bring Your Own Bags, Nanaimo!

The City is keen to reduce the impact single-use checkout bags have on our community and beyond. Even though they can be recycled or used again for a limited number of uses, these bags aren't often recycled or reused. Instead, they can end up in our waterways, storm drainage systems and greenspaces. This creates unsightly litter, blocks pipes and damages pumps. Many single-use bags also end up in our curbside collection system where they can jam up recycling equipment.

A survey will be open until May 31, 2019 where you will have the opportunity to provide your input on how best to manage the many challenges single-use plastic bags create. Once survey results are collected, staff will report to Council the best way to manage and possibly eliminate the usage of these bags as one way to better protect our environment. Find the survey and more information here: www.nanaimo.ca/goto/BYOBags.



JOIN IN ON THE FUN AT THE NANAIMO RECYCLES TRUNK SALE!

This free reuse event aims to give unwanted household items a longer lease on life and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill. At the sale, you will find vendors selling their unwanted items from the trunk of their car to bargain hunters.

Saturday, July 27, 9 am to 2 pm in the Country Club Centre parking lot.

Visit www.nanaimo.ca for more info on how to sign up as a vendor.

Know before you throw!

Nanaimo has a great record for doing our part to reduce waste and divert as much stuff going to the landfill as possible. However, sometimes our good intentions end up in the landfill! Before you throw something in your blue or green bin, make sure it's acceptable in our recycling and organic processing facilities.

Check out the Garbage and Recycling section at www.nanaimo.ca to find out how you can make sure your efforts aren't wasted.

Have a successful curbside collection

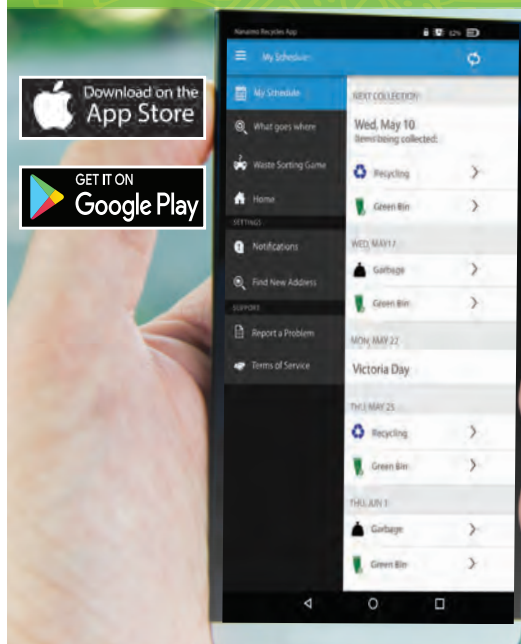
Get a reminder of how best to place items in your green, blue and black carts by watching the video on this page:

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/Garbage-Recycling.

Learn how to best place your carts at the curb here:

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/CartPlacement.

Pick-Up Reminders & More! (Never forget your garbage and recycling day again!)



Download our free app:

Nanaimo Recycles

NANAIMO
RECYCLES
RECYCLE TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Use our "What Goes Where" search tool to learn how to recycle more!

Don't have a smart phone?
Sign up to receive telephone reminders at www.nanaimo.ca or by calling 250-758-5222.