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### Thank you - Nanaimo comes together during a difficult year

It has been a year of immense challenges and we continue to work through some that began more than a year ago. However, as a community we have come together to support one another and adapt to the many changes we have faced because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Things are still changing and it will take time to get back to some kind of normal. Nanaimo City Council and City Staff wish to thank all residents for your patience, understanding and wonderful sense of community during these difficult times.

### The Doughnut - planning locally while thinking globally

There has been a lot of talk about the doughnut model of economics that Council adopted in December 2020, but you may be wondering what it is and how it relates to Nanaimo. Along with considering the global impact (e.g. Earth's life support systems) of our decisions, the doughnut addresses how we can incorporate life's essentials (e.g. housing, social equity, food, health, political voice, etc.) in our planning so Nanaimo can be a community where all residents can thrive. We are using this in **REIMAGINE NANAIMO** Phase II as a lens to inform the plans and strategies that will guide Nanaimo into the next 20 years or longer. Find more information at [www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo](http://www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo).

### REIMAGINE NANAIMO - shifting to Phase II

Wow, Nanaimo! You've shared some great insights during the first phase of **REIMAGINE NANAIMO** – what's great about our City, what needs work and fantastic ideas for the future. To see a summary of what our community has shared so far, take a look through the Phase I Engagement Summary available at [www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo](http://www.getinvolvednanaimo.ca/reimagine-nanaimo). These ideas are now being used in Phase 2 of the process to identify a range of potential scenarios and options for Nanaimo's future. Watch for opportunities to review and provide your thoughts on these emerging directions.



### COMPLETE STREETS - BUILDING ROADS FOR ALL COMMUTERS

Complete Streets are designed to make roads safe and comfortable to use for all, regardless of age, ability or transportation mode. Since Council adopted the guidelines, we have been identifying roads to turn into Complete Streets. Here are ones that are currently being transformed or are identified for a future Complete Street makeover:

- Front Street - underway now, work is expected to be complete May 2021
- Metral Drive - underway now, work is expected to be complete fall 2021
- Mid-town Gateway - construction for Phase 2 is expected to begin in 2022
- Stewart Avenue - on hold due to COVID-19
- Wakesiah Avenue - on hold due to COVID-19
- Georgia Greenway - Complete!

Find more information on these projects and the Complete Streets guidelines at [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/projects](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/projects).

### INVESTING IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Council has put aside an additional \$700,000 in 2021 to improve pedestrian safety. Improvements include enhancements to the following crosswalks (e.g. flashing lights, better lighting or elevated crossings):

- Bruce Avenue at Sixth Street
- Hammond Bay Road at Tiki Way/Shores Drive
- Dufferin Crescent at Seafield Crescent
- Labieux Road at Shenton Road
- Bruce Avenue at Albion Street
- East Wellington Road at Westwood Road
- Departure Bay Road at Departure Bay Eco School
- Uplands Drive at Mexicana Road

In addition, new sidewalks will be added to:

- Needham Street from Haliburton Street to Irwin Street
- Haliburton Street from Woodhouse Street to Robins Street.

## Your tax bill: how your dollars are used

Each property tax bill helps pay for the important City services and initiatives that make Nanaimo a community that is livable, environmentally sustainable and full of opportunity for all generations and walks of life. Also, one per cent goes towards an increase in funding for the general asset management reserve. Together, your property taxes fund:

### A GREEN, LIVABLE COMMUNITY



*Supporting an inclusive, healthy, safe and desirable place to live by planning for Nanaimo's growth and focusing on community infrastructure. Protecting and enhancing Nanaimo's natural environment*



*by looking after the community's biological diversity and adapting the way we live, work, recreate and move.*

- REIMAGINE NANAIMO helps us learn what is most important to you so we can set a future direction for our community.
- Park improvements such as the new accessible playground in Maffeo Sutton Park and Harewood skate park create places to recreate and connect with others.
- Investments in active transportation networks and pedestrian infrastructure improvements lead to reductions in carbon emissions with more people choosing to walk, cycle and roll for their daily commute.

### AN ECONOMICALLY VIBRANT CITY



*Creating a vibrant culture of innovation, stewardship and partnership to encourage a diverse and healthy economy now and into the future.*

- Later this year, a new economic development corporation is expected to be up and running. Along with the City's Economic Development department, they will work to deliver priorities identified in the Economic Development Strategy. These include facilitating the Nanaimo-Vancouver passenger ferry, supporting Health & Housing initiatives, continuing to invest in Port Drive and the waterfront walkway, supporting growth through development approvals and examining transportation and logistics opportunities.

## A TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT



*Developing a culture of excellence around governance, management and cost-effective service delivery.*

- Council has introduced initiatives to ensure greater transparency around decision-making including livestreaming all committee meetings, which have been closed to public attendance due to COVID-19 restrictions (find them at [www.nanaimo.ca/meetings](http://www.nanaimo.ca/meetings)), and introducing the Council Voting Dashboard: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/CouncilMeetingDashboard](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/CouncilMeetingDashboard).
- We carefully plan projects to get the most out of every dollar. For example, the Metral Drive Complete Street project came about from the need to replace the aging underground utilities (water, sewer mains). Given we had to dig up the road, we saw this as a great opportunity to improve how the road is used by all modes of transportation when it's put back together.

Learn more about the City's budget process and view the 2021-2025 Financial Plan Quick Facts at [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budget](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/budget).

## Your tax bill: calculated

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).

### Your Property

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Assessment} \\ \hline \$1,000 \end{array} \times \text{Tax Rate} = \text{Your Portion of Property Taxes}$$

In addition to City taxes, we also collect taxes on behalf of other authorities (School District 68, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority, RDN and Vancouver Island Regional Library).

## REDUCE OR DEFER YOUR TAXES

The **Home Owner Grant** is a great way to reduce 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.

**NEW:** Starting May 2021, you must apply for your grant through the Province of BC. Visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://www.gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant) or phone 1-888-355-2700.

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**. This Provincial program provides low-interest loans to qualified homeowners to pay their primary residence property taxes. Find more information and links to the online application system at: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/TaxDeferment](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/TaxDeferment).

## A ONE-STOP SHOP TO YOUR CITY ACCOUNTS

Manage all your City of Nanaimo bills in one convenient place. With MyCity, your user rate and property tax bills can all be viewed and managed online. Visit [mycity.nanaimo.ca](http://mycity.nanaimo.ca) to log in. Don't have an account yet? Learn how you can set up your MyCity account at: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/MyCity](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/MyCity).



## YOUR 2021 PROPERTY TAXES ARE DUE JULY 2, 2021

There are a number of ways you can pay:

**Your bank:** online, phone or in person. When paying this way for this first time, search "Nanaimo". The folio number on your notice is the account number.

**Mail a cheque:** 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5J6. Payment must be received by July 2, 2021.

**At the Service and Resource Centre:** 411 Dunsmuir St, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. As of print date, wearing a mask is required in all City facilities.

**Your mortgage company:** Make sure their name is listed on the front of your tax notice. Don't forget to apply for the Home Owner Grant.

**Pre-authorized payments:** Visit [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/paws](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/paws) for more information or give us a call at 250-755-4415.

**NEW:** A late payment penalty of 1% will be applied to payments received after July 2 and another 9% will be applied for payments made after September 10, 2021.

## Summer FUN in Nanaimo's Parks

There's a lot of FREE summer fun to be had in Nanaimo's parks!

- **Find the Golden Bucket** contest returns from May 5 to July 28. Check our social media or website each Wednesday for clues. Find the park through the clue, go to that park and find the Golden Bucket sticker. Scan the QR code for the question about that park. Submit your answer for a chance to win weekly prizes and to enter for the grand prize a Kayak Tour valued at \$300 courtesy of Coastal Expression Adventure Centre.
- Our **Playground Program** features family activities including crafts, games, music and more from July 7 to Sept 1! Check [recreation.nanaimo.ca](http://recreation.nanaimo.ca) for locations.
- Stay cool this summer! Lifeguards are on duty at **Westwood Lake** from 12 to 6 pm, June 29 to Sept 5. **Water parks** are also open 9 am to 8 pm daily in Departure Bay Park, Deverill Square Park, Harewood Park and Mansfield Park.
- Play in one of **Nanaimo's playgrounds**. In addition to neighbourhood playgrounds, destination playgrounds are located in Beban Park, Harewood Centennial Park, Maffeo Sutton Park and Oliver Woods Community Park.
- Explore **Nanaimo's parks and trails** this summer. Check out our Parks and Trails brochure on the City website to discover your next Nanaimo adventure.

For more details, please visit [recreation.nanaimo.ca](http://recreation.nanaimo.ca) or call 250-756-5200. **Please make sure to follow any COVID-19 guidelines in place.** Find the latest restrictions at [www.nanaimo.ca](http://www.nanaimo.ca).



## Have a FireSmart summer

The arrival of summer usually brings hot, dry weather. Follow these simple steps to make sure you are FireSmart and visit [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://www.firesmartbc.ca):

- 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 and keep them pruned up 2 metres.
- 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.
- Be vigilant and call 911 to report all fires no matter size.

Have you been to Maffeo Sutton Park lately? If you haven't, stop by and check out the Nanaimo sign! This new addition to our iconic waterfront park was installed as part of our downtown vibrancy program. Post a photo of it on Instagram using [#MyNanaimo](https://www.instagram.com/MyNanaimo) and we'll share it on [@cityofnanaimo](https://www.instagram.com/cityofnanaimo).



## 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 - 10 pm. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees can be watered any time - micro-drip encouraged.

Find more information at: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/watering](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/watering).

## SUMMER ROAD CONSTRUCTION

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

- 1 **METRAL DRIVE PHASE 2** - This project is entering into Phase 2 of its Complete Streets treatment. Expect delays and street closures from Turner Road to Aulds Road. Construction is expected to finish in spring 2022. Please use alternate routes.
- 2 **BOWEN PARK TRAILWAY & UTILITY UPGRADE** - The multi-use pathway will be improved with a wider trail, new lighting and gentler grades. Certain areas of Bowen Park will be closed to the public during construction. Please follow signage and respect construction activity when in the park. Construction is expected to finish in the fall.
- 3 **LOST LAKE ROAD** - Slope stabilization and traffic calming work is being completed this summer along the 5100 Block of Lost Lake Road. Traffic disruptions and delays can be expected while work is ongoing.
- 4 **NINTH STREET** - Utility upgrades, new sidewalk and repaving will take place between Bruce and Howard Avenue, this summer. Expect road closures during construction to through traffic.
- 5 **TENTH STREET** - Expect delays as crews replace a major culvert on Wexford Creek where it crosses at Tenth Street. Work is expected to take place July to September.
- 6 **FOURTH STREET** - The road will be closed to through traffic between Harewood Road and Park Avenue beginning in July as crews upgrade underground utilities and continue the pedestrian and cycling connection from VIU towards downtown.

See a list of City construction projects at [www.nanaimo.ca/construction](http://www.nanaimo.ca/construction).

# TRASH TALK

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

Get ready to bring your own bag, Nanaimo! Under a new City bylaw, beginning July 1, 2021, businesses will no longer be providing plastic checkout bags. If you forget your own bag, reusable and paper bags will be available for purchase.

The Checkout Bag Regulation Bylaw No. 7283 aims at reducing the impact of plastic waste on our environment and infrastructure. The average Canadian uses 400 plastic bags per year – this is the equivalent of 40 million plastic bags per year in Nanaimo alone. Many of these bags aren't getting reused or properly recycled through depot drop off. Instead, most plastic bags end up in our landfill, and sometimes end up in our waterways, storm drainage systems and greenspaces. To find more information on the bylaw, head to: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/BYOBags](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/BYOBags).



## Love Food, Hate Waste

Did you know? 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten. The most commonly wasted foods are vegetables, fruit and leftovers. Here are some quick tips to prevent food waste at home:

- **Plan it out:** make a meal plan, buy just what you need and use everything you buy.
- **Keep it fresh:** store produce properly and, if you have too much, try freezing, canning or dehydrating to extend the life of your food.
- **Use it up:** get creative by trying new recipes and try using the entire veggie with root-to-tip cooking!

### QUESTIONS ABOUT CURBSIDE COLLECTION?

Visit: [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles)

Call us: 250-756-5390

Email us: [Zero.Waste@nanaimo.ca](mailto:Zero.Waste@nanaimo.ca)

## Join in on the fun at our Reduce & Reuse special annual events!

Do you have a storage room full of household items that you haven't looked at, let alone used, in years? Nanaimo's Trunk Sale and Reuse Rendezvous annual events aim to give unwanted household items a longer lease on life and reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill.

### TRUNK SALE

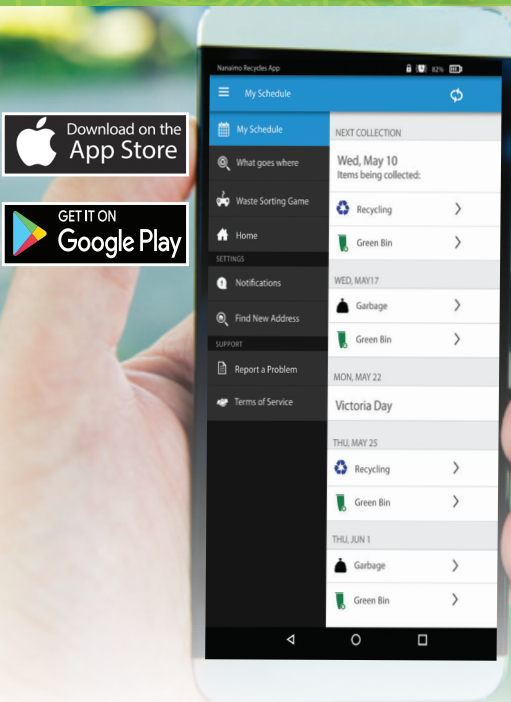
On **Saturday, July 17** registered vendors can sell their unwanted items from the trunk of their car to bargain hunters. Registration is free, and spots are limited.

### REUSE RENDEZVOUS

Join in on the city-wide swap meet over the weekend of **August 14 & 15**. Stick a "FREE!" label on unwanted household goods, and set them out on the curb for other community members to take and reuse. Please make sure to take any items left over back inside.

Visit [www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/NanaimoRecycles) for full details and event updates, including registration information for the Trunk Sale and safety guidelines for Reuse Rendezvous.

## 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](http://www.nanaimo.ca) or by calling 250-758-5222.

