

# Community Report

## What's happening in our community



Autumn is a picturesque time in the District, with stunning gold and orange hues on full display across the municipality. Like the changing seasons, exciting new things are happening in the District that we are eager to share in our Fall Community Report.

In this issue, you will read about how we are updating our Official Community Plan (OCP)—with your input—to accommodate the next 20 years of growth in our municipality; introducing a new program to protect our forests for future generations; continuing to electrify our fleet, including piloting a new electric garbage truck, to meet our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint; and preparing our Snow Command team for what is predicted to be a cold, white winter.

**!** *As this newsletter was going to print, our community had just experienced an extreme rainfall event. The emergency response is still underway, and investigations have also begun. Read more about our response and recovery inside.*

## Updating our Official Community Plan (OCP)

We're updating our OCP, and we want you to help us shape the future of our community.

As part of new provincial housing legislation introduced by the B.C. government in its previous term, we must now revisit our OCP and Zoning Bylaw to accommodate 20 years of growth based on our housing needs, approximately 22,000 new homes.

Our current OCP, finalized in 2011, sets the direction for future growth and change in the municipality through a network of connected centres and transit corridors. This urban structure was reaffirmed by the community in 2021, and we plan to continue to direct the majority of growth to our established centres and corridors.

Starting this fall and throughout 2025, we will engage with the community, First Nations, and other key interest holders about the District's current and future housing needs and gather

your feedback on potential land use and regulatory changes to help us set the direction for future growth and change for the next 20 years.

In spring 2025, we will host in-person and virtual events and opportunities for you to learn more, ask questions, and share your views.

"Where in the District does growth make the most sense, and what will growth look like in the years to come? We want people to get involved with planning for our future," says Dan Milburn, General Manager of Planning, Properties, and Permits. "We will develop several land use scenarios to provide options as to what our community could look like based on our twenty-year housing needs, transportation, infrastructure, and amenities."

The deadline for completing this work is Dec. 31, 2025.

Learn more:

[DNV.org/OCPUpdate2025](https://DNV.org/OCPUpdate2025)





## Rainstorm recovery ongoing

District crews continue to clean up debris, repair infrastructure and assess damage caused by the intense atmospheric river rainstorm that hit the North Shore on October 19-20.



The storm dumped up to 344mm of rainfall, recorded at our Hastings Creek station. By comparison, that is more than twice as much rain as the significant October 2014 rainstorm, which brought water and debris down Fromme Street, flooding homes and the old Argyle Secondary School.

Our crews proactively clear catch basins and culverts before storms hit. However, given the intensity of this latest storm's rainfall, in some cases, it was more than the stormwater systems could handle.

"With that significant amount of rainfall in such a short period of time, unfortunately, some flooding is unavoidable," says Peter Cohen, General Manager, Engineering Infrastructure Services. "Further assessments may be needed to determine whether any infrastructure changes are warranted."

Fortunately, no serious injuries to residents or staff during the rainstorm were reported.

## Our changing climate

As climate change increases the frequency and intensity of storms, we will continue adapting and preparing for extreme weather, prioritizing the protection of our community and life safety. However, the climate is changing faster than predicted, and we cannot engineer our way out of this climate crisis. Engineering solutions can be slow to implement and costly. Still, we're actively developing solutions and taking action to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change.

We know a multi-pronged approach will help to make our communities adaptive and resilient to a changing climate. That's why we've been taking action in six key areas to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect and enhance ecosystem health and biodiversity, and improve our resilience to climate change.

Learn more: [DNV.org/ClimateAction](https://www.dnv.org/ClimateAction)



## Charging ahead



A fully electric garbage truck has quietly started collecting garbage and organics waste in the District.

"This is a pilot project to see if the electric garbage truck can service the District with our unique topography, geography and weather," says Michael Toland, Section Manager, Fleet and Solid Waste.

The truck's electric drivetrain produces zero emissions, which aligns with our goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Its quiet operation also reduces noise pollution for residents and collection workers.

A regenerative braking system improves the truck's efficiency, allowing it to recapture up to 30% of battery life by turning kinetic energy into electricity.

It is the first rear-end loader EV garbage truck in all of B.C., specifically designed to accommodate our cart collection system.

"There are many benefits that come with going electric: lower emissions and reduced

## Rewriting our Zoning Bylaw

We are modernizing our Zoning Bylaw to ensure it meets our community's current housing, environmental, social, and economic needs. Learn how we're working to create more straightforward and effective land-use



noise for a cleaner environment and reduced fuel and maintenance costs," says Toland.

We continue transitioning our municipal fleet to electric vehicles to help achieve energy and emissions reductions.

Approximately 86% of our passenger vehicle fleet is electric. As older vehicles are replaced, we will purchase additional electric vehicles.



Leading by example is a key area we identified to support the transition to electric mobility in our Electric Vehicle Strategy, which was approved by Council in June 2024.

We also continue to expand our public charging infrastructure. Look for two new fast charging stations coming soon to Norgate Park. Additional stations are planned for other locations soon.

Learn more about our EV Strategy: [DNV.org/EVStrategy](https://DNV.org/EVStrategy)



## Preparing for a cold winter



Forecasters predict a return of a La Niña weather pattern this winter, which likely means colder temperatures, higher precipitation and snow. But don't worry, we're ready for it.

We use a weather-monitoring service and advanced street-level technology to keep ahead of snow and ice.

Long before the first snowflake falls, our large Snow Command fleet has been tuned up and tested. This year, we've replaced some of our aging fleet with new models equipped with advanced onboard computer systems. These systems enhance route optimization and improve salt-spreading efficiency, reducing the time and cost of snow removal.

In addition to our plow trucks, we have a squadron of heavy duty trucks and backhoes to tackle snow and ice.

At our Operations Centre, we have replenished the mountain of salt we use to make streets safer in the winter, and our fully automated brine machine, which can produce 10,000 litres per hour, is ready to load and refill the trucks.



We invest significantly in staff training to ensure we have a sizeable team capable of operating 24/7 during snowstorms or deep freezes. Crews clear roads on a priority basis, focusing first on major arterial streets, transit routes and access to emergency services.

When winter weather hits, our Streets team focuses on roads. At the same time, Parks Department crews are busy clearing and salting sidewalks, bike lanes, paths and other spots using various snow-clearing equipment.

"We're prepared for any winter conditions," says Mike Blackmon, Streets Department foreman. "We're very proud of our entire Snow Command team that goes out there and dedicates their time to keeping everyone safe and making sure they can get to wherever they need to go."

Learn more: [DNV.org/Snow](https://DNV.org/Snow)



regulations for residents, organizations, businesses and other users of the bylaw.

[DNV.org/ZoningBylawRewrite](https://DNV.org/ZoningBylawRewrite)





## We want to hear from you

Did you find this Report informative?  
Scan the QR code to take a short survey and share your thoughts.



## Protecting our forests for future generations

District arborist Nick Harris walks around Mountain View Park, looking up at the trees.



Harris has extensive knowledge about the forest and a deep connection to the expansive natural areas managed by the District.

“I am passionate about trees. I grew up in North Van. I have two young boys. I’m raising them in these forests,” says Harris,

supervisor for the Urban Forestry division.

Today, he’s investigating a report of a potentially hazardous tree near a popular park. In recent years, Harris and his team have witnessed a dramatic change in the health of our forests due to climate change and other factors, like looper moth outbreaks.

These changes affect the health of our forested areas, local wildlife, waterways and the safety of our surrounding communities. That’s why the District has introduced a forest resilience program to protect our trees and parkland for future generations.

### About the program

The forest resilience program aims to reduce hazards and wildfire risk, protect people and infrastructure, and improve

ecosystem function within our natural parklands by removing hazard trees and invasive species, managing debris and replanting native species.

When a forested area can withstand stress from climate-related events, the impacts are less destructive, reducing the incidence of tree deaths, ecosystem disruption, and the risk to people and property.

### Building forest resilience

Our Parks arborists are collaborating with external consultants and subject experts to compile recommendations, develop plans, and implement holistic forest management techniques to support our forests in a changing climate.



“I think we can make a difference. And I hope to leave a healthier, resilient forest for my children and their children in the future,” says Harris.

Many locations throughout the District will require forest work in the coming months and years. In the first five years of

the program, we plan to treat about 120 hectares of forest, which represents approximately 5% of our total natural parkland.

Learn more about the program:

[DNV.org/ForestResilience](https://dnv.org/ForestResilience)



Printed on 100% recycled paper

355 West Queens Road  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7N 4N5  
604-990-2311  
infoweb@dnv.org

Follow us on social  
@NVanDistrict

[DNV.org](https://dnv.org)

We respectfully acknowledge the original peoples of these lands and waters, specifically the *səlilwətał* (Tsleil-Waututh), *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* (Squamish), and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam), on whose unceded ancestral lands the District of North Vancouver is located. We value the opportunity to learn, share, and serve our community on these unceded lands.