

Community Report

What's Happening in Your Community

In this *Community Report*, we share some exciting initiatives happening in the District of North Vancouver as we move forward on the priorities District residents told us they value most.

Bringing the Official Community Plan to Life

The District of North Vancouver's Official Community Plan (OCP) is the roadmap that guides all we do. The current OCP was developed in 2011 after two years of extensive community consultation to define a vision for this place where we live, learn, work and play. It sets out goals and policies for the District to work towards through to 2030.

In 2021, we revisited the OCP to reflect on our progress and develop an action plan to help us further advance the community's priorities for achieving a sustainable future: where all are welcome, our economy thrives and we live in harmony with nature.



Town and Village Centres

Residents may recall that one of the biggest concepts that emerged from the creation of the OCP in 2011 was to establish Town and Village Centres. Preserving the unique character of each area, the Town and Village Centres offer a focal point for growth and are intended to deliver low-carbon and diverse housing options, employment space, public amenities and recreation options, all within walkable communities with a variety of transit choices.



Diversifying housing options

We are working to maintain a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant community by providing more diverse and affordable housing choices for everyone: housing that works for young people just starting out, families with kids, empty-nesters, seniors, employers and their staff who work here, low to moderate-income earners and those who need non-market options.



Enhancing transportation

Work is underway to make safety improvements to our highways and roads, and we're collaborating with neighbouring municipalities to advocate for infrastructure and increased transit choices across the North Shore.



Taking action on climate change

The District's natural beauty is deeply valued by residents and visitors alike. We have been actively working to preserve our precious natural spaces and proactively respond to the effects of climate change, both in the natural and urban environments.



Supporting our local economy

We are working to ensure the local economy is sustainable and diverse, and that industrial land is protected. Employers indicate addressing housing needs for employees is important, which echoes the importance that residents place on housing needs more generally. Our climate actions seek to make sure buildings and property are resilient in the face of climate change.

Read on to learn how we have been moving these priorities forward.



Welcome to Lions Gate Village



Have you had a chance to visit Lions Gate Village? The District's newest Town and Village Centre is now welcoming residents and businesses.

Near Capilano Road and Marine Drive, Lions Gate Village has quick access to transit and is accessible for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike. Lions Gate Village offers various housing options, from single-family homes to townhouses to condominiums.

The new District-owned community centre opened in April 2022 and includes a community living room, full-sized gym, multi-purpose rooms, arts space and meeting rooms. It is located in the Village's plaza, which features space for retail, restaurants, offices, outdoor socializing, and a playground and water park.

Lions Gate Community Recreation Centre is operated by North Vancouver Recreation and Culture (NVRC) Commission. It provides a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation, fitness, sport, arts, social opportunities and special events through NVRC and Capilano Community Services Society (CCSS), and also houses a North Vancouver District Public Library express library and CCSS-operated Red Cross Health Equipment Loan Program.

What makes a Village?

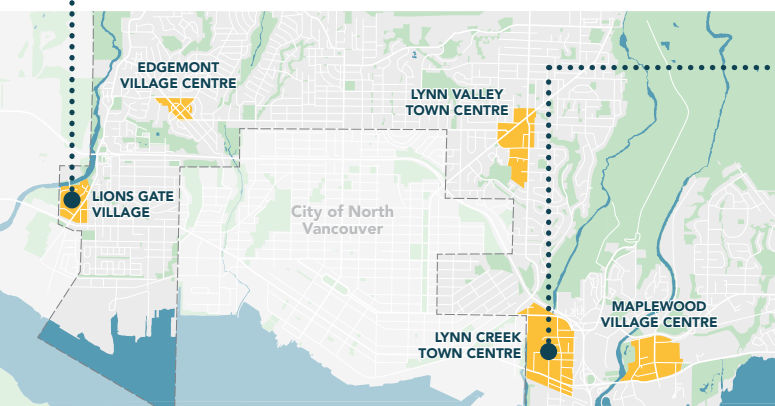
The District's Town and Village Centres are designed to enhance existing neighbourhoods by concentrating different types of housing around a walkable community core that features commercial and business space, community amenities, socializing areas and playgrounds.

Each vibrant Centre intends to be connected by a cycling path enabling people to efficiently ride between different Centres. While each Centre has unique characteristics, all have easy access to the District's abundant parks and natural spaces.

Town and Village Centres benefit the entire District

The Town and Village Centre model offers benefits to those living in them and beyond, including:

- Reducing residents' need for cars by bringing businesses, community amenities, social opportunities and recreation options close enough together to walk or cycle to them, in addition to having the option of transit or driving. This not only improves residents' quality of life, it lowers carbon emissions and protects our natural environment.
- Enhancing housing affordability by providing a mix of options to suit different needs and budgets. Creating more affordable options means more people who work in the District are able to live here, for example, reducing congestion on highways and roads, and supporting local businesses.
- Enabling long-time residents to downsize while remaining in their home community.
- Protecting our natural spaces from urban sprawl by concentrating new density in already-developed areas.
- Fostering a sense of community and belonging, and promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for families and individuals of all ages and abilities through community centres and outdoor amenities.



Get to know Lynn Creek Town Centre

Envisioned as the largest Town Centre and with a nearby light industrial area, Lynn Creek will add an estimated 3,000 new housing units and welcome some 6,000 residents as it evolves over the next 20 years. It is intended to feature a vibrant commercial High Street and will support enhanced transit services. The surrounding low and medium-density housing will provide family and senior-friendly options.

Creating More Affordable Housing Options

Having an affordable place to call home continues to be top of mind for many. In 2021, we moved forward with several affordable housing projects on District-owned land.

Supportive housing for women and children

The District has partnered with BC Housing and RainCity Housing to develop 60 units of supportive housing for women-led families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Located at West 16th Street and Lloyd Avenue, the site was approved for rezoning in May 2021.

Low to moderate-income options

Development permits have been issued for two projects on District-owned land that will create housing for low to moderate-income households. The District has partnered with Hollyburn Family Services Society on a site at 600 West Queens Road that will feature 86 units of below-market rental



Artist's rendering of the supportive housing project at W.16th St and Lloyd Ave.

housing. Hollyburn has partnered with Sanford Affordable Housing Society on another project on municipal land near Phibbs Exchange at 267 & 271 Orwell Street. This site will feature 90 units of below-market rental housing. With funding from BC Housing, these projects are estimated for occupancy in 2024.

Housing for seniors nearing completion

Kiwanis Lynn Manor at 2555 Whiteley Court expects to welcome residents later this year. Located beside the existing Kiwanis tower, the new six-storey building will offer 106 units of below-market rental housing for seniors.

Exploring sites for future affordable housing

The District will continue taking action on affordable housing in 2022. Council has directed staff to talk to the community about potential options for District-owned sites at 900 St. Denis Avenue and at Mountain Highway and Hunter Street, which could be locations for affordable housing in the future. In addition, Metro Vancouver Housing recently endorsed a District application to build affordable rental housing on a DNV-owned site in the Maplewood area.



Scan for more information on the District's Rental and Affordable Housing Strategy.



[DNV.org/affordable-housing](https://dnv.org/affordable-housing)



If you want to get more involved in shaping your community, consider volunteering for a committee! **Find out more:**



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

Keeping property taxes low

Council recently approved a 3% tax increase for 2022, or \$72 on the average residential home. The District has maintained one of the lowest average tax increases in Metro Vancouver over the last 10 years.

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



Taking Action on Climate Change

The District has been actively working to respond to climate change for many years and, in 2019, declared a climate and ecological emergency. Here are a few actions we're taking to address climate change.

Sea level rise

Science indicates as global temperatures increase and polar ice melts, we will see rising sea levels, and we're making sure the community is prepared. To protect the recreational, residential and industrial areas along our oceanfront, the District worked on region-wide solutions with the City of North Vancouver, the District of West

Vancouver, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation). The resulting Sea Level Rise Strategy was recognized by the Community Energy Association with the 2021 Climate and Energy Action Award.



Key actions to mitigate sea level rise can include:

- Building dikes to reduce flooding
- Raising livable spaces in areas where flooding might happen
- Land use planning to avoid adding more buildings vulnerable to flooding and gradually moving existing structures further inland.

Reducing emissions

We've set a target of zero emissions by 2050 and together with the two other municipalities on the North Shore, we are enacting some of the highest building efficiency and carbon performance standards of any municipality

in Canada. As well, we're helping residents switch to green energy by taking part in the North Shore's tri-municipal Jump on a Heat Pump program. It provides support and incentives for residents who replace existing fossil fuel furnaces with renewable electricity-powered heat pumps.



We also introduced a new electric bike share program and set a requirement for new apartment buildings to add electric vehicle charging stations. The District's own operations got greener with a 50% reduction in emissions at Municipal Hall through a mechanical system retrofit and we are transitioning our municipal fleet to electric vehicles. On our roadways, we have led the way in BC to adopt emission-reducing warm-mix asphalt for all paving projects, instead of using traditional paving methods.

Visit [DNV.org/more-sustainable-roadwork](https://dnv.org/more-sustainable-roadwork) to read the full story.



More greens, less waste

Maplewood Farm now uses produce to feed the animals that might otherwise be sent to a landfill through a partnership with FoodMesh, in collaboration with Save-on-Foods, which benefits the animals and the environment.

maplewoodfarm.bc.ca



Improving our urban tree canopy

A healthy urban tree canopy will help us take action against climate change and increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat. Learn more about the Urban Tree Canopy Project we've started for residential property owners:

[DNV.org/urban-tree](https://dnv.org/urban-tree)



Taking Action on Climate Change



Stormwater management



Many residents who live near creeks and streams in the District have seen recent work to upgrade infrastructure in and around these water sources. Intense storms cause debris such as rocks, mud and tree limbs to wash down the mountains, where they

can clog culverts and cause flooding. To prevent floods and prepare for the future impacts of storms, we have increased investment to expand and upgrade culverts and to build large debris barriers along creek paths.

Wherever possible, we integrate nature-based solutions. For example, Kilmer Creek used to be channelled into a narrow pipe that ran underneath L'Ecole Argyle Secondary. When the pipe reached the end of its useful life, the District daylighted a section of the creek by building a landscaped open creek channel. This approach improved climate resilience and restored ecological function, while also enhancing public access to nature.



Preventing wildfires



The District has been implementing the Wildfire Protection Plan to ensure we're prepared if a wildfire happens close to home. Our fire crews receive annual specialized training in fighting wildfires, with a focus on preventing their spread into urban areas. In 2021, the District's Fire and

Rescue Services also provided on-the-ground leadership in fighting wildfires in Lytton, White Rock and 100 Mile House to aid their local firefighting efforts while gaining valuable experience to bring home to the District.

Protect your home from wildfire

Live near the forest?

Your property may be eligible for a free personalized fire safety assessment. We'll identify any fire hazards and provide guidance on how to keep your home safe. **Learn more:**



[DNV.org/wildfire-assessment](https://dnv.org/wildfire-assessment)

Low-carbon buildings

Heating homes and buildings generates over 40% of the community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in the District. That's why we've created new regulations to limit the use of fossil fuels in new construction, and we're expanding incentive programs for homeowners interested in switching to low-carbon heating systems.

[DNV.org/low-carbon-buildings](https://dnv.org/low-carbon-buildings)



Getting Around

Making it easier to get where you need to go

We've been working on several improvements to streamline travel in the District:



Upgraded five transit stops to improve accessibility and the comfort and safety for passengers and pedestrians.



Enhanced safety for pedestrians and cyclists with new sidewalks, seven crosswalks and four crosswalk upgrades.



Completed West 15th Street West Bikeway, connecting Lions Gate Centre Town Centre to the City of North Vancouver.



Launched the E-Bike Sharing Program with the City of North Vancouver.



Completed Lower Lynn Highway Improvement Project. This major provincial infrastructure project, led by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, improves safety for cars, cyclists and pedestrians.



Advocated for rapid transit through a partnership with the City of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, **Sḵw̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish Nation), and **səlilwətał** (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) to form North Shore Connects and successfully advocated for the Burrard Inlet Rapid Transit Project (BIRT) inclusion in TransLink's 2050 plan. We are now calling for it to begin construction within the next 10 years.



Worked with TransLink, the City of North Vancouver, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Regional Mayor's Council on potential RapidBus service from Lynn Valley Town Centre to Lonsdale and downtown Vancouver via the Lions Gate Bridge.



Explore the newest places to walk, ride and play

We've been busy adding and upgrading outdoor recreational amenities across the District, so there are now more options than ever for you to stay active, have fun and connect with others in your community.

- **Inter River Park**

Pump Track is located alongside the existing BMX track and features an advanced looped circuit for intermediate riders and beginner track built with safety in mind.



- The new **Bridgman**

Playground is the District's first fully accessible playground and it includes an in-ground trampoline, a zip-line, and an accessible side swing. Later in 2022, we will be replacing the playground for kids 5-12 at Blueridge Park.

- Have you visited **Lynn Canyon Park** lately? We've made several significant improvements throughout the park, including replacing the staircase to Twin Falls, replacing decking on the suspension bridge, and improving traffic flow.

- We've started work to complete a key connection in the **Spirit Trail** between Lynn Creek Town Centre and Park & Tilford. This new section will run through Bridgman Park and include a multi-use path and bridge across Lynn Creek at the west end of Hunter Street. This bridge will also connect to the newly-created section of the Spirit Trail running through Seylynn Park and under Highway 1.

- Spent time in the newly restored **Seylynn Park**? With an oval grass area surrounded by built-in seating, it's the perfect spot to get outside and play a game with friends or just enjoy the scenery.

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