

Community Report

What's happening

There's a lot going on in the District these days. We're adding more diverse and affordable housing choices while still maintaining the character that makes North Van home, we're creating vibrant emerging neighbourhoods in town centres, and we're continuing to connect the network of walking and cycling routes so people of all ages and abilities have more options to get around the community.

In this fall 2023 Community Report, we share news relevant to you, and we look at what's coming next as we continue work to achieve the vision defined in the Official Community Plan (OCP).

Spirit Trail eastern extension starting soon

Planning and design work on the eastern extension of the Spirit Trail is well underway.

Work began after District Council approved a five-year Capital Plan in April 2023 that includes \$20 million to continue building the Spirit Trail, conditional on grant funding.

Once completed, the eastern portion of the Spirit Trail will provide a continuous connection between Deep Cove and Seymour River.

The route is planned to be south of Mount Seymour Parkway because it provides the most connections to neighbourhoods and key destinations. This southern alignment of the route also more closely meets the original vision for the Spirit Trail as it's more accessible, at a lower elevation, and closer to the water.

"Creating a connected network of walking and cycling routes is a priority and the building out of the Spirit Trail supports that priority in a significant way," says Shane Devine, Senior Project Manager of the Spirit Trail Eastern Extension project.

The Spirit Trail Eastern Extension will be a multi-year effort that connects a series of separate projects delivered on individual

timelines between 2024-2027.

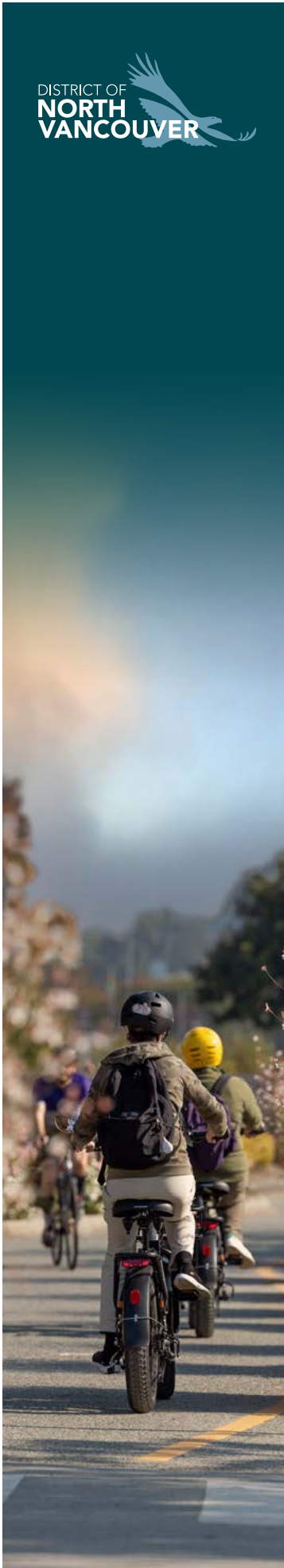
In support of the Spirit Trail, improvements to cycling infrastructure on Mount Seymour Parkway are planned to begin in 2024 to provide more separation between vehicles and bicycles. Improved safety and comfort for cyclists along Mount Seymour Parkway will provide better connectivity to and from individual Spirit Trail Eastern Extension segments as they are completed over time.

We expect to start construction on the trail segment between the Seymour River and Berkley Road in late 2024 or early 2025. Topographic surveys, as well as tree, environmental, and archaeological assessments, are all underway for this section. Similar work is also underway for a Cates Park/Whey-ah-Wichen segment and a section connecting Dollarton Highway to the Parkgate area through Roche Point Trail.



Learn more:

DNV.org/
spirit-trail-east



New town centre in Lynn Creek is taking shape

If you've visited Lynn Creek Town Centre lately, you've likely noticed exciting changes in the emerging neighbourhood.

There's a recently-installed graffiti-style mural, created by artist Carson Ting, who is also working on two installations inside the Lynn Creek Community Recreation Centre at 1401 Hunter Street, scheduled to open next year. The recreation centre will include a full-sized gym, express library, community and childcare spaces, and more.

Lynn Creek is one of five town and village centres at the heart of our OCP – walkable areas with diverse housing, community amenities, shopping and services linked by various transit options. In early 2023, the new Spirit Trail crossing over Lynn Creek opened, offering a key connection between the town centre, Park and Tilford and various other parks, trails and natural spaces.



"If you live in Lynn Creek, you've got easy access to wider North Shore trails and connections and you've got the opportunity to play, relax and enjoy public open space," says Darren Veres, Senior Development Planner.

The five town and village centres — which also include Edgemont Village Centre, Lynn Valley Town Centre,

Lions Gate Village, and Maplewood Village Centre — offer a focal point for our municipality's projected population growth over the coming decades. They provide housing options to suit different needs and budgets, from those who work in the District and want to live here to downsizers and young families.

Envisioned as the largest town centre, Lynn Creek will add approximately 3,000 new housing units and welcome some 6,000 residents as it evolves over the next 20 years. As residents continue to move in, new stores, coffee shops and other amenities continue to open their doors, making it an even more desirable place to live or visit.

Learn more about our town and village centres:

[DNV.org/town-village-centres](https://dnv.org/town-village-centres)



Building a strong local economy

We're creating an Economic Development Strategy to support the success of our businesses and build a diverse and resilient local economy.

[DNV.org/economic-strategy](https://dnv.org/economic-strategy)



Learn about our Accessibility Plan

We're working to identify, remove, and prevent different types of barriers for people with disabilities, and make the District a fully accessible place to live, work, and play.

[DNV.org/accessibility-plan](https://dnv.org/accessibility-plan)



Help us shape the future!

Add your voice to the conversation by joining one of our advisory committees.

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



Community Survey

Later in November, we will be contacting select households by telephone through the Mustel Group, a local research firm, for our Community Survey, done every three years. We encourage you to share your responses to the questions asked about your municipal government.

A place to call home for all

Having an affordable place to call home for all residents is a priority for District Council.

The District's 2023 Housing Needs Report identifies delivering a range of social and supportive homes as a key priority, and a primary goal of our Official Community Plan is to increase housing and rental options for different needs, including low to moderate-income earners, and housing to support residents experiencing homelessness.

A growing number of people on the North Shore are struggling to meet their basic needs, but the crisis for those who urgently need accommodation remains largely unseen.

Many who can't find a safe place to live stay in shelters, live in cars, surf on couches or even camp in the woods, which makes it hard to accurately assess the members of our community who may not have secure housing.



According to the 2023 point-in-time Homeless Count in Greater Vancouver, the number of individuals experiencing homelessness on the North Shore increased 39% between 2020-2023.

In late September, we took another important step toward providing housing options for everyone when we announced a partnership with BC Housing to pursue the development of a supportive housing project on East Keith Road that will provide approximately 65 new homes.

In October, Council considered rezoning a piece of District-owned land on Lillooet Road West to permit an affordable housing project of up to six storeys, which would accommodate about 100 to 180 homes, depending on the unit size.

"If you've travelled along West Queens Road lately, you probably noticed construction underway at the old Delbrook site. This building will offer below-market rental housing. Construction is also underway on Orwell Street near Phibbs Exchange for another mixed-income below-market rental building. I am proud of the tangible

progress the District has made," says Tina Atva, manager of Community Planning.

As well, a 60-unit supportive housing project for women and women-led families is at the building permit application stage and in August 2023, Metro Vancouver announced plans to develop a new family-oriented, non-market rental housing project for families, seniors, and people with disabilities on District-owned land in the Maplewood area.



As new projects begin and others are completed, Council continues to balance efforts to support the housing needs of all residents while also maintaining the lifestyle and access to nature inherent to this community.

Learn more:
[DNV.org/housing-needs](https://dnv.org/housing-needs)



Provincial housing targets

In September, BC released its provincial housing targets for 10 municipalities, including the District, where the aim is to add 2,838 net new housing units, comprised of a mix of social, affordable and market units, within five years.

These housing targets generally align with the housing policies found in our OCP and as identified in the Housing Needs Report approved by Council. However, as Mayor Mike Little notes, "achieving the high level of non-market housing targets in the proposed timeframe will require funding from senior levels of government and funding for improvements to regional infrastructure like transportation and utilities."

View the Housing Needs Report:
[DNV.org/housing-targets](https://dnv.org/housing-targets)



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.



Our journey towards reconciliation

During the last week of September, we flew the Survivors' Flag at District Hall and lit the Hall up orange to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and to demonstrate our commitment to advancing reconciliation and strengthening relationships with local First Nations, including the *səlilwətał* (Tseil-Waututh), *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) Nations.



Earlier in the year, *səlilwətał* and the District signed an historic joint Relationship Protocol Agreement, which formalizes our commitment to work together to implement the municipal-specific Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Provincial Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

The agreement also highlights key initiatives that *səlilwətał* and the District have agreed to work on together, including protection and promotion of culture and heritage; environmental stewardship and climate action; community and social development, and economic collaboration and prosperity; parks planning, management, and community recreation; infrastructure, servicing, and transportation; public safety; and land-use policies, objectives, and regulations.

Learn more: [DNV.org/our-journey-towards-reconciliation](https://dnv.org/our-journey-towards-reconciliation)

New artificial turf field is open for play!

It's game on for the new turf field at École Argyle Secondary, a partnership between the District and the school district. In addition to being home field for Argyle school teams, it will also be available for a wide range of community sports groups.



Coming Soon!

The Maplewood Fire & Rescue Centre, opening in 2024, will improve emergency services and response times provided by DNVFRS. The new, environmentally friendly 45,000 sq. ft. facility is built to post-disaster standards so firefighters can maintain services in emergencies such as power outages and earthquakes.



Download the free Alertable app

Did you know North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) uses Alertable to send emergency alerts when there is a risk to public safety, such as wildfires or floods?



Get Alertable on your smartphone, Amazon Alexa, and Google Assistant home devices: nsem.ca/alertable

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We respectfully acknowledge the original peoples of these lands and waters, specifically the *səlilwətał* (Tseil-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.