

# Community Report

## What's happening

This spring, we're excited to share activities that advance the collective vision to live in a community that is inspired by nature, and enriched by the people who call the District home.

You will read how our community is changing over time according to the latest Census numbers, how we prepare for heavy rainfall and wildfire risks due to the changing climate, and about your property taxes.

You'll also discover the new spaces and places we've added around the District that make it easier for you to stay healthy and connect with others and what lies ahead as we continue to bring the Official Community Plan (OCP) to life.

We hope you enjoy the read and will take a few minutes to share your thoughts on this Community Report. See the last page for details.

## Our community

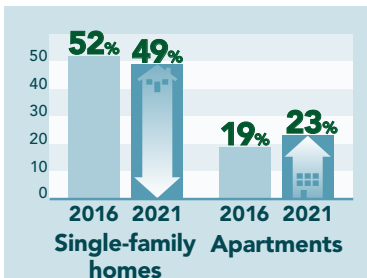
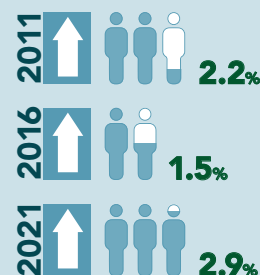
Did you know DNV has the highest median income of the North Shore municipalities and the second lowest growth rate in Metro Vancouver? If we've piqued your interest and you'd like to learn more, visit [DNV.org/census](https://dnv.org/census).

These are just some of the interesting stats included among the federal government's most recent Census data, released last year. The Canadian Census of Population is undertaken every five years and provides insight into how communities are changing nationwide. Here in the DNV, this information helps us measure progress on priorities and make informed decisions for the future.

On balance, the 2021 Census paints a portrait of the District as a stable community. Some indicators show changes in our community, like the growing senior population and the increase in renter households. Other indicators show little change like our overall population and the most common language spoken at home. Below are a few key points highlighting what the most recent Census says about our community.

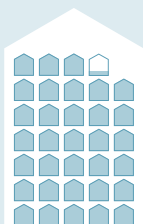
**88,168** Residents

### Growth Rate



Source: Statistics Canada Census data

### BETWEEN 2011 AND 2021



# Taking care of the community!

## Wildfire safety starts with healthy forests

Speaking of the community, you may have seen us over the fall and winter working to mitigate the possibility of a fast-moving wildfire spreading from our forests to our urban areas.

Crews were in Cliffwood Park and McCartney Park to reduce the number of small trees and brush that can help a fire spread from the ground to the tree canopy, along with materials that can easily catch fire, such as accumulations of dried branches and other flammable organic materials.

"The area where the forest meets the community is called the wildland urban interface, and it's a critical line of defence. If we get a house fire, it could ignite trees in the forest; if we get a forest fire, it could ignite a structure in the community," says Guy Exley, DNV community forester.



As our changing climate creates drier conditions that can fuel wildfires, work to mitigate this danger becomes even more critical.

In addition to the 70 hectares already completed, our current wildfire protection plan identifies 160 hectares – much of which is located outside of DNV jurisdiction – of strategically placed high-risk, forested areas where potential fuels should be removed.

Learn more about our ongoing fuel treatment plan:

[DNV.org/healthy-forests](https://www.dnv.org/healthy-forests)



## DNVFRS is wildfire-ready

If a forest fire happens near our community, District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services' expertly trained crews have specialized equipment to respond quickly, including a new fleet of wildfire response pickup trucks and mobile water supply units.



The three new wildland pickup trucks are specifically designed to tackle rugged terrain and enable firefighters to get a jump on dousing fast-moving forest fires.

Each four-wheel-drive truck carries 350 gallons of water and a high-pressure pump. "These trucks help us to quickly attack a wildfire that's spreading. We want to put it out well before the flames threaten homes," says Chief Brian Hutchinson.

DNVFRS also recently added two 'portable fire hydrants' – called the HydroSub-60 Mass Water Supply System – to battle fires in wildland areas with no water sources and urban places when needed.

Learn more about this new specialized wildfire fighting equipment:

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



## Protect your home from wildfire

Your property may be eligible for a free, personalized fire safety assessment if you live near the forest. District firefighters will identify fire hazards and suggest how to keep your home safe.

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





## We never stop preparing for rain

Whether it's melting snow and rain mixing in spring and early summer or heavy fall and winter rainstorms, our crews work year-round to reduce the possibility of flooding and damage to homes and property.



And with approximately 500 culverts and 10,000 catch basins in the District, it's a never-ending job.

So, how do crews keep track of all of them? Well, there's an app for that.

The Streets team uses a custom "storm inlet inspection" program

created by our Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team that pinpoints 795 locations, including 23 catch basins, 26 lawn basins and 310 creek inlets on a map.

There's a priority list of inlets and basins that are checked most frequently due to past blockages or that regularly receive a high volume of water during rainstorms.



Crews use the app on phones or tablets to see when each inlet was last inspected and if there are any outstanding maintenance issues. They can even browse photos taken during the previous inspection.

"Our crews are continuously checking the inlets. The inlet app enables them to stay on top of that," says Paul Pakulak, section manager, Streets.

"Residents can also help prevent local flooding by removing leaves and other debris covering catch basins on their street," says Pakulak.

If a catch basin still looks clogged, you can report the issue at [DNV.org/report](https://dnv.org/report).



Maintenance and monitoring of possible trouble spots occur year-round. In the summer, crews cut back vegetation at higher-risk locations for better access to the inlets and catch basins during the stormy seasons.

## Seasonal resident parking pass

Pay parking is in effect at Lynn Canyon Park March 1 to October 31. If you live in the District, you can purchase a seasonal parking pass (\$10) that enables you to park without paying the hourly rate.

Find out more:

[DNV.org/resident-pass](https://dnv.org/resident-pass)



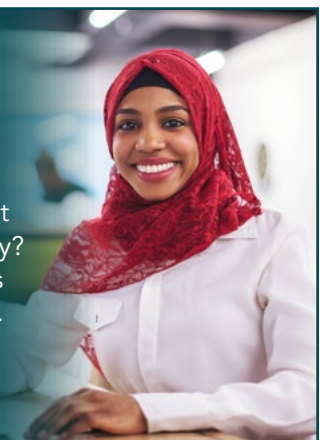
Read the full story about how we prepare for heavy rain:

[DNV.org/rain-ready](https://dnv.org/rain-ready)

## Join a DNV committee!

Looking to add your voice to the decision-making that helps shape our community? We're recruiting volunteers to join various committees.

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



## We want to hear from you

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



## Understanding your property tax notices

On April 3, Council adopted the 2023-2027 Financial Plan bylaw. The plan includes Council priorities and a 5.25% tax increase for the year. This budget is presented in an uncertain financial environment – high inflation, high-interest rates, and lingering impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this uncertainty, Council plans to review a revised financial plan in the fall of 2023, after its strategic planning concludes and more information about inflation and the financial markets has been assessed.

### Did you know the District keeps only 57% of the property taxes you pay?

Nearly 43% of the property tax bill you pay is collected on behalf of other public authorities such as Metro Vancouver, TransLink, BC Assessment, Municipal Finance Authority of BC and Provincial Government (school taxes).

### How does my property assessment impact my taxes?

The average increase in 2023 home values across all residential properties in the District is 6.33%, as assessed by the BC Assessment. But remember: how much you pay in property tax is not how much your assessed value changed year-over-year. Rather, it depends on the change in your assessment value relative to the rest of residential properties in the District.

Learn more: [DNV.org/property-tax](https://dnv.org/property-tax)

## We've added new spaces and places to stay active

Looking for a new spot to ride, roll or walk? The Spirit Trail crossing over Lynn Creek is now open. The bridge completes a key connection between Lynn Creek Town Centre and Park & Tilford.



Dogs and their owners have a new place to play! There's a fenced, leash-optional dog area at the future Belle Isle Park, located within the Lions Gate village centre. It's part of a larger temporary public space for all to enjoy until the permanent Belle Isle Park is ready.



Coming in early 2024! A new community recreation centre in the heart of Lynn Creek Town Centre featuring a full-sized gym, express library, community spaces, multi-purpose area and childcare.



Did you know we're creating a more accessible and vibrant public space along lower Gallant Avenue in Deep Cove? Construction on the Livable Deep Cove Project is expected to be completed this summer.



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We respectfully acknowledge the original peoples of these lands and waters, specifically the *səlilwətał* (Tsleil-Waututh), *Skwxwú7mesh* (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.