

Watkiss Way Neighbourhood Park Frequently Asked Questions



1. Why are parks important to the community?

The parks system is integral to the unique spirit of “place” in View Royal. Parks support and enhance the health of the community for residents, wildlife, and natural ecosystems.

Developing and maintaining opportunities to connect people to nature and recreation through strategic investment and management is vital to maintaining the high quality of life in View Royal.

2. How much park space does the Burnside neighbourhood have now?

The Burnside neighbourhood currently has 4.2 hectares of parks spaces. They include: Craigflower Creek, Burnside Corner, and Aldersmith Park

3. What is a “neighbourhood park”?

Neighbourhood parks are generally small and respond to the open space and recreation needs of local residents. Examples of neighbourhood parks in View Royal include: Aldersmith Park, Glenairlie Park, Chilco Park, Chancellor Park. Newstead Park and Chalmers Park.

There are also neighbourhood greenspaces within ½ kilometre walking distance of homes that offer small, open spaces, sometimes offering playground equipment.

4. Why are community gardens and off-leash dog areas something that might be considered?

The Town has heard a desire from residents for more community gardens and off-leash dog areas. Among other uses, these are two activities that can be explored for this space.

- Community gardens are noted to be one of the least utilized amenities by residents, however, there are only approximately 50 community garden plots in the Town.
- Off-leash dog areas are one of the most popular park amenities enjoyed among residents. There are currently 5 off-leash dog park areas in View Royal, including Thetis Lake Regional Park.

5. What limitations or restrictions are imposed by the large water main underneath the park?

Due to a large water main system and the anode bed that is used to protect the CRD water main, the site has some limitations in terms of what can be constructed in that area. Permanent infrastructure like buildings, concrete, asphalt, retaining walls and sheds that could impact the anode bed or prevent access, are not permitted.

6. Will there be more opportunities for community engagement as the planning moves along?

Yes. Once this phase concludes, a *What We Heard Summary Report* will be produced so participants can see what was heard and how it influenced decision-making. The input will inform a park design that will then be shared with the public for feedback.

7. When can residents expect to be able to use this park?

We hope to have a new park in place by end of 2024.

8. How much will it cost to build this park? Will taxes increase?

The cost of the land is a \$1 lease per year, as it was provided by the Ministry of Transportation as part of the redevelopment of the property for a BC Transit handyDART centre.

Funded through grants, the capital budget for infrastructure is \$170,000 for 2024. Taxes will not increase because of this new park.

