

## Parksville's 2024-2028 Financial Plan (Provisional)

Each year, the City prepares a five-year financial plan to meet the needs of our community today and into the future. Guided by Council priorities, the annual budget is part of the five-year plan which sets priority services, programs and initiatives and how the City will pay for them. Beginning in November, the City held three Committee of the Whole and two special Council meetings to consider input from residents, stakeholder groups and staff.

The plan details the operating costs, capital plan, funding sources, and tax and utility rates and aims to balance the pressures of a growing community with ongoing maintenance, expected service levels and infrastructure improvements and reduce the burden on residents.

For the average home value in Parksville, the provisional budget for 2024 includes an increase of 6.6% (estimated to be \$171 for an average priced home) in municipal taxes, 5% (\$15) in water fees and 3% (\$6) in sanitary sewer fees. Highlights from the plan include:

### Increased service levels starting in 2024:

- Fire department - new career fire rescue service technician
- Policing - new RCMP member
- Downtown/parks - new special events coordinator position

### 2024-2028 investments in capital assets and infrastructure renewal include:

- \$1.5 million asphalt patching, overlays, crack sealing in 2024
- \$3.675 million per year roads and drainage infrastructure renewal
- \$2 million Parksville pathway project from Parksville Community Park to Englishman River estuary
- \$825,000 per year water and sanitary sewer infrastructure renewal

### Investments in reserves for future expenditures:

Establishment of protective services reserve for policing and fire rescue services' future capital and operating expenditures, starting with an annual incremental contribution of 0.2% of property tax revenues and a one-time transfer of \$1.5 million from unrestricted surplus, totalling \$2.01 million over five years.

- Significant upcoming protective services expenditures include renovation to the fire hall, ongoing replacement of fire apparatus and increased staffing and operating costs tied to growing population (City's incremental share of policing costs increases from 70% to 90% when the population exceeds 15,000).

Continuation of the annual incremental increase of 0.5% of property taxes contributed to the capital reserve for infrastructure renewal, totalling \$2.466 million over five years. Reserves support financial sustainability goals with respect to critical infrastructure investment and renewal. Other strategic priority projects include:

- \$750,000 drinking water master plan
- \$300,000 downtown lighting project to enhance placemaking and safety
- City-hosted celebrations and events in Memorial Plaza and Parksville Community Park
- Requirements of new provincial legislation related to housing plan/OCP amendments, short-term rental regulations and the Emergency and Disaster Management Act
- Completion of master plans for water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage and transportation



## THINGS WE'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW

**Water Restriction Stage 1** in April allows for watering of lawns between 7 pm and 7 am, any day. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees are exempt from water restrictions.

### Temporary closure of beaches to dogs

To limit disturbance of migrating Brant geese, our beaches are subject to seasonal "no dog" restrictions. This applies to on-leash and off-leash within the Parksville-Qualicum Beach Wildlife Management Area. Rath Trevor and Parksville Bay beaches are closed to dogs until April 30.

**Watermain flushing** - our annual watermain flushing program continues through April, mainly between 7.30 am and 3.30 pm, weekdays. Residents can expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in pressure; keep a fresh supply of drinking water in your fridge. Check for discolouration before doing laundry and if discoloured, run outside tap (after 3.30 pm) until clear. [ops@parksville.ca](mailto:ops@parksville.ca).

### Parksville's 2024 Canada Day Celebrations

Planning is underway and event details, parade forms, and information will be on the City's website and *Let's Talk Parksville* later this month. Send us your ideas and let us know if you would like to be involved at [canadaday@parksville.ca](mailto:canadaday@parksville.ca).

## City Dates

March 18	Council Meeting
March 29/April 1	Easter Holidays (offices closed)
April 3	Council Meeting
April 8	Special Council Meeting (Financial Plan)
April 15	Council Meeting
April/May	TBD Financial Plan Meeting
May 6	Council Meeting
May 20	Victoria Day Holiday (offices closed)
May 22	Council Meeting
June 3	Council Meeting
June 6	Dance with Me at Memorial

On March 4, Council approved the provisional financial plan bylaw. The April 8 meeting will revisit the provisional plan and 2024 property tax rates with further meetings in April and May to be advised. The five-year financial plan and property tax rates bylaws must be adopted by May 15. Residents and taxpayers are encouraged to provide feedback on the plan by attending meetings, reviewing information on *Let's Talk Parksville* and providing comments by email to [council@parksville.ca](mailto:council@parksville.ca).

## Transportation Master Plan – Phase 2 Survey

Thank you to those who participated in the City's transportation master plan project. The information presented at the March 5 open house may be viewed on *Let's Talk Parksville*. We've heard from many residents who shared their ideas related to transportation in the City. In phase 2 engagement, we invite Parksville residents to again provide input on what's been accomplished so far. Survey is open until April 5. [[letstalkparksville.ca/transportation-plan](http://letstalkparksville.ca/transportation-plan)]



## Wood Chipping Program

Our annual wood chipping program will take place April 2 through April 25. The City is divided into two zones - west of Craig Street and east of Craig Street. Properties west of Craig Street will receive collection between April 2 and April 12 and properties east of Craig Street are scheduled between April 15 and April 25. Materials must be at curbside by 8 am. Map and more info on our website. [[Residents/Wood Chipping](#)]

## How to Reach Council

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