

The logo for the Township of Esquimalt features the words "Township of" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font above the word "ESQUIMALT" in a large, white, serif font. A white, wavy graphic element underlines the text and extends across the width of the page.

# Township of ESQUIMALT

The title "COUNCIL PRIORITIES PLAN 2023-2026" is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font against a dark blue background. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

## COUNCIL PRIORITIES PLAN 2023-2026

UPDATED MAY 2026



View from Highrock Park



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

- 4..... About Esquimalt
  - 5..... Introduction
  - 6..... Council Priority Process
  - 8..... Vision, Mission and Values
  - 9..... Council Priorities
  - 10..... Climate Resilience & Environmental Stewardship
  - 11..... Diversified & Thriving Economy
  - 12..... Engaged & Healthy Community
  - 15..... Housing
  - 17..... Good Governance and Organizational Excellence
  - 19..... Strong Relationships and Partnerships
  - 20..... Potential Future Projects
  - 21..... Related documents
- 



View from Saxe Point

# THE LAND OF SHOALING WATER

- > The area now known as Esquimalt has been inhabited by Coast Salish First Nations for over 4,000 years.
- > Esquimalt (pronounced Ess-KWY-malt) is an anglicized version of the  $lək^{wə}əŋən$  word “es-whoy-malth,” which means the place of gradually shoaling waters.
- > Year of incorporation: September 1, 1912.
- > Esquimalt is home to close to 18,000 residents.
- > Esquimalt boasts a diverse business landscape, from a bustling graving dock and light industrial enterprises to offices to breweries and a variety of local businesses.
- > Esquimalt has over 40 hectares of parkland, many of these parks overlooking waterways along the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Gorge Waterway.

The Township enjoys over 30 parks, beaches and green spaces.





West Bay Marina

# INTRODUCTION

## Goal of the report

Mayor and Council develop and identify key projects and initiatives to be undertaken during the term of Council 2023 – 2026. The report is intended to outline the priorities and their progress.

## What are council priorities

Council priorities outline areas of focus for the coming term. These priorities can be amended over time as some are completed and other needs arise. Any proposed new projects are evaluated on priority and costs—both financial and in staff time.

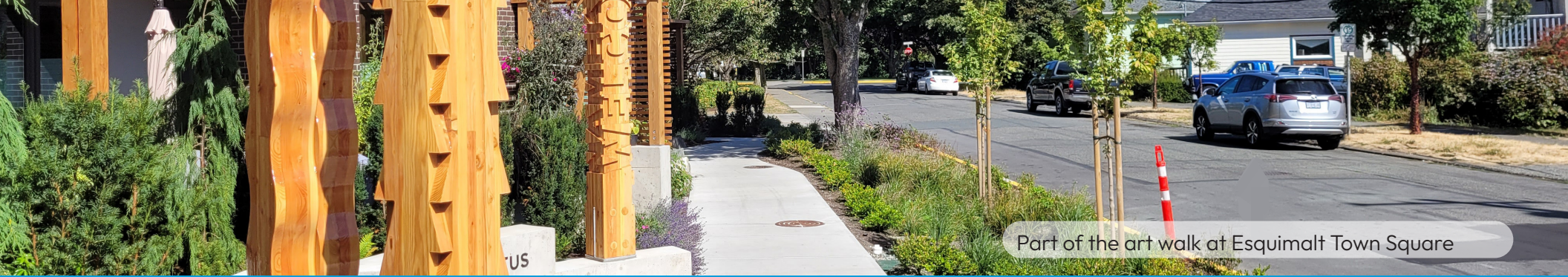
These priorities are in addition to existing operational tasks and approved capital projects.  
The projects or initiatives in this plan fall outside of staff’s day-to-day operational or service level commitments.

Generally, 90 per cent of staff effort is devoted to delivering on service level commitments, which leaves approximately 10 per cent of staff’s workplan capacity for projects that are part of the Council Priorities Plan.

## Services

The Township is responsible for delivering essential local services such as parks and recreation; sewer services; transportation infrastructure and fire protection. Land use planning, economic development and other policy areas impact how the township grows.

These services are part of staff’s core service work and are included in the financial plan. Details about this work is summarized in the annual reports.



Part of the art walk at Esquimalt Town Square

# COUNCIL PRIORITY PROCESS

Council was sworn in on November 7, 2022 after the October municipal election. In December of that year, they began strategic planning sessions that included identifying areas of focus; drafting mission, vision and values; and assessing organizational strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities.

After a follow-up session, this draft was taken to the Committee of the Whole for public input in March 2023. After ratification in April and a housing workshop in May, Council finalized the list of priorities and projects.

The Council Priorities Plan represents Council's direction to staff; staff use this guidance to build their workplans and deliver the results that Council is seeking. While Council retains the flexibility to modify or update the Priorities Plan at any time, the aim of a structured framework is to establish a predictable rhythm

for governance review of Council's priorities throughout the year.

These projects may be adjusted to align with financial and departmental planning. Adjustments to the projects will be reflected in periodic updates of this document.

*NOTE: Cllr. Darlene Rotchford resigned her position in October 2024 due to her new position as MLA for the Esquimalt-Colwood riding. Cllr Meagan Brame was successful in the April 2025 by-election.*



(Top) Councillor Boardman, Councillor Morrison, Councillor Helliwell, & Councillor Cavens

(Bottom) Councillor Brame, Mayor Desjardins & Councillor Armour

# COUNCIL PRIORITY PROCESS

## Financial planning

Staff present a draft budget to Council and the public for feedback and adjustments in the spring. This budget outlines both operational needs and capital projects.

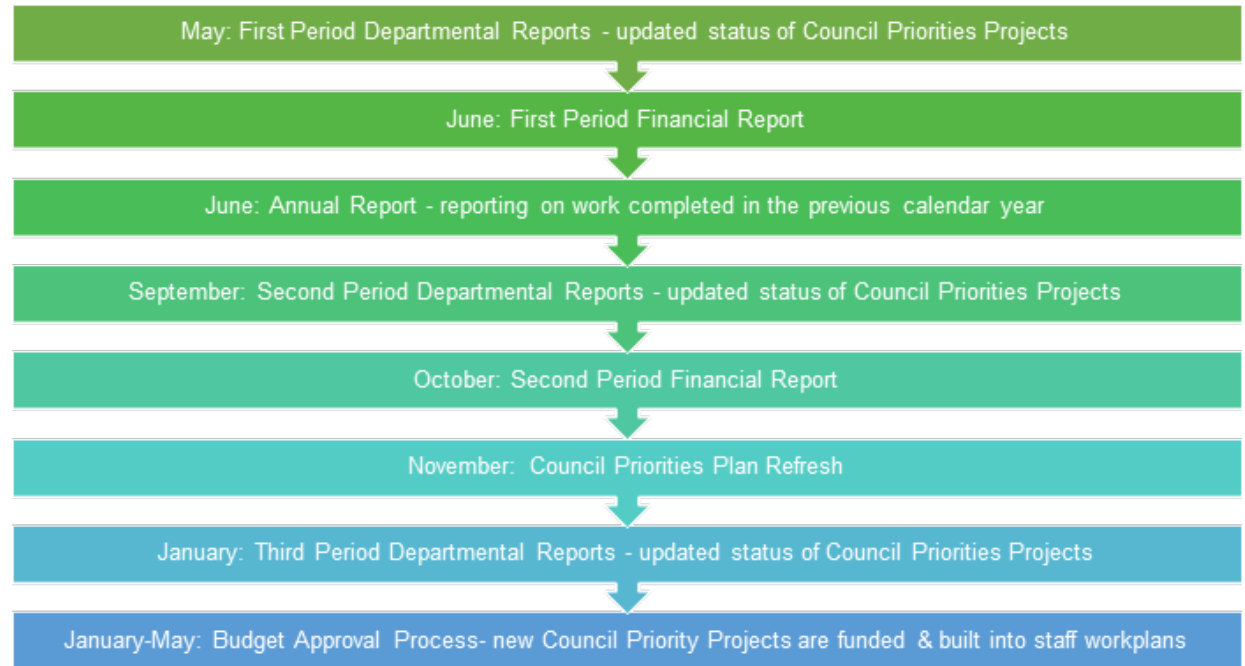
Council takes council priorities into account when approving the budget to ensure initiatives are responsibly funded. The resulting Five-Year Financial Plan provides funding for core services as well as the Council Priorities Plan. To keep Council, staff and community expectations aligned, it is important to recognize that Council does not normally add new projects or initiatives to the Council's Priorities Plan without understanding the required funding, staff resources, and impact to current commitments.

The Township has adopted a best practice where new or unfunded projects are referred to the Council Priorities Plan Refresh scheduled to occur each November. Staff would prepare decision notes for Council consideration that would include information about the potential projects (scope, budget, impact assessment, etc.) to enable prioritization of the new projects within existing plans and resources.

## How do these priorities impact planning and work throughout the year?

The Chief Administrative Officer and senior leadership group then use these council priorities to develop operational strategies and work plans to support the direction set by Council.

The Period Financial Reports share budget variance updates, including insight on Council Priorities Projects. Progress is reported to Council and the public through Department Reports three times a year and is summarized in the Township's annual report published each June.





Esquimalt skyline

# VISION, MISSION & VALUES

## VISION

The Township of Esquimalt is a leader that is recognized as a vibrant, distinct, resilient and diverse community for people to discover, feel welcome and belong.

## MISSION

The Township of Esquimalt works to support economic, cultural, social and environmental health for our current and future generations.

## VALUES

**Accountability** - We are transparent and take responsibility for our policies, our decisions and our actions.

**Integrity** - We demonstrate high standards of ethical behaviour and open communication that inspires trust.

**Respect** - We value people and treat everyone with dignity and fairness.

**Service Excellence** - We meet community needs and achieve high-quality results through responsiveness, creativity, teamwork and partnerships.

**Passion** - We approach our work with conviction and enthusiasm.

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness** - We share in the responsibility to create a positive culture, honour differences, and safeguard equity, inclusion and dignity for all.

# COUNCIL PRIORITIES



**CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**



**DIVERSIFIED & THRIVING ECONOMY**



**ENGAGED & HEALTHY COMMUNITY**



**GOOD GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE**



**HOUSING**



**STRONG RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS**



Saxe Point Park



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Tree Protection Bylaw Update	Parks and Rec		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2023
Priority Development Workshop—Climate Resilience and Environmental Stewardship	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2023
Climate Action Workshop Initiative: Update Council report templates to include climate action (mitigation and adaptation) considerations	Corporate Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Climate Action Workshop Initiative: Develop an annual progress report that ties to specific strategies within the climate plan	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	<del>Q2 2024</del> Q4 2024
Low Carbon Energy Systems Bylaw	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Integrated Resource Management	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Complete.</b> Township is not pursuing IRM at this time; instead supporting a regional approach led by the CRD. Future work by the Township will be considered as a Potential Future Project for consideration by future Councils.	<del>Q2 Q4 2024</del> <del>Q2 2025</del> Q3 2025
Green Teams Partnership	Parks and Rec		<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Develop concrete action plan to reduce corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 including: 1. Electric vehicle fleet plan 2. GHG emission municipal building audit 3. GHG corporate roadmap	Development Services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The electric vehicle fleet plan is complete and has been incorporated into the broader capital plan</li> <li>&gt; The municipal building audit was completed in April, 2026</li> <li>&gt; The GHG Corporate Roadmap will be completed once the municipal building audit has been completed.</li> </ul>	<del>Q1 2025</del> <del>Q1 2026</del> Q4 2026

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## DIVERSIFIED & THRIVING ECONOMY

Project	Dept	Status	Status Details	Completion
Develop Economic Development Action Plan	HR and Community Relations		<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Options Analysis - Park Place & Esquimalt Road	Strategic Initiatives		Staff to provide update to Council in open session no later than Q3 2026	<del>Q4-Q3 2024</del> Q2-2025 Q3-2025 Q4-2025 Q3 2026
Business Façade Improvement Program	Financial Services and IT		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2024
Short-term rental policy analysis	Development Services		<b>Complete</b> – Council has now provided staff with a framework for bylaw amendments. Staff and the consultant are currently working on an information package for Council outlining specific bylaw amendment options.	Q2 2026

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## ENGAGED & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Options Analysis – Arm Street Park Dock	Parks and Recreation		<b>Complete</b>	Q4 2023
Volunteer Recognition Policy	HR and Community Relations		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2024
Macaulay Elementary Crossing Guard MOU	Financial Services and IT		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2024
Impact Assessment—Report on Undergrounding of Mainline of Overhead Utilities (Esquimalt Rd (Constance to Dominion))	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2024
Family Doctor Shortage & Incentives	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2024
Implement Public Art Plan	Parks and Recreation		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2024
Public Safety Building—Design Phase	Community Safety Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2024
Police Service Model Transition—Phase I	Community Safety Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2024

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## ENGAGED & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Revise "Maintenance of Property and Nuisance Bylaw" with respect to Construction Noise	Corporate Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2024
Esquimalt Together Against Graffiti	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Initiation complete</b> and operationalized.	Q4 2025
Refresh & Replace Esquimalt Road Banners	HR and Community Relations		<b>Complete and operationalized.</b>	<del>Q1</del> Q4 2024
Health Needs Assessment	Development Services		<b>Completed</b> in Q4 2025; presented to Council Q1 2026.	<del>Q4 2024</del> Q1 2025 Q3 Q4 2025
Level of Service Review - Enhance evening and weekend bylaw enforcement	Strategic Initiatives		Council reviewed the after-hours bylaw report and directed staff to focus after-hours enforcement exclusively on Saturday parking and Township events. Staff are working to implement Council direction and measure progress and outcomes.	<del>Q2 Q4 2024</del> Q1 2025 Q2 Q3 2026
Partner and develop turf field for Esquimalt High School	Parks and Recreation		UBCM Strategic Priorities Grant submission complete - waiting on results of grant application. Announcement expected in the spring of 2026	<del>Q2 Q3 2024</del> Q1 Q4 2025 Q1 Q2 2026
Police service model transition—Phase 2	Strategic Initiatives		Progress report to be provided to Council in Q2 2026.	Q2 2026
Public safety building construction	Administration		Project remains on budget; end date shifted to Q1 2027 to accommodate construction sequencing challenges. Project status shifted to yellow to reflect schedule change	<del>Q3 Q4 2026</del> Q1 2027

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## ENGAGED & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Dock Analysis	Parks and Recreation		Assigned to Parks & Recreation for capital project development.	Q3 Q4 2024 Q1 2025
Implement Active Transportation Network Plan	Engineering and Public Works		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; New sidewalk on Kinver Street connecting Munro Street and Lyall Street:</li> <li>&gt; Detailed design progressed in Q1 with construction tendering expected in Q2.</li> <li>&gt; Esquimalt Road Active Transportation Improvements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Phase 1: Total completion was achieved in Q1.</li> <li>&gt; Phase 2: Detailed design engagement on segments between Joffre and Fraser, and Admirals to Canteen occurred in Q1. In Q2, Council directed staff to proceed with detailed design and construction tendering with construction expected to begin in Q3.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; Craigflower Crosswalk Improvements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Total completion was achieved in Q1.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing
Front Yard Deer Fencing Policy Development	Development Services		Council review of policy options complete; bylaw amendments coming for Council review end May 2026 with adoption expected in June 2026.	Q1 2026

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## HOUSING

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Construction Protocol Review	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q1 2023
Priority Development Workshop—Housing	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2023
Rent Bank Program Information Brief	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2023
Parking Strategy and Updated Parking Bylaw	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q1-Q4 2024 Q1 2025 Q3 2025
GIS Census Analysis	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Tenant Relocation Policy	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q4 2023
Subdivision & Development Bylaw Update (including sidewalk requirements)	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Complete</b> ; Updated Bylaw approved by Council January 15 2024	Q1 2024

Proposed/Not yet funded    On track    Issues or concerns    Project at risk    Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## HOUSING

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Prepare Zoning Bylaw Amendments to bring the Zoning Bylaw into conformance with recent amendments to the <i>Local Government Act</i>	Development Services		<b>Complete-</b> Bylaw adopted June 2024	Q2 2024
Development Process Improvements	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2024
Affordable Housing Strategy Report	Development Services		Project funded, not yet started. Will not begin before Q4 2026. Recommend shifting this project to Future Projects list.	Q2 2027
Development Capacity Assessment	Development Services		Consultant contract awarded; project underway.	Q4 2024 Q3-2025 Q1 Q2 Q3 2026
Doctor Density Bonusing	Development Services		Completed, Council has decided to delay implementing recommendations from the Health Needs Assessment Update and the Community Healthcare Play book until the next Council is in place.	Q4-2024 Q4 2025 Q2 2026
Prepare new Housing Needs Assessment	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q4 2024
Official Community Plan 2025 Updates	Development Services		<b>Complete</b>	Q4 2025
Official Community Plan Major Review	Development Services		Funding for this project has been moved to 2027; Recommend shifting this project to the Future Projects list.	

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## GOOD GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Council Code of Conduct	Corporate Services	■	<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2023
Sign Bylaw Amendments	Development Services	■	<b>Complete</b>	Q3 2023
Staff report—B.C. Growing Communities Fund Options Analysis	Development Services	■	<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2023
Accessibility Plans— <i>Accessibility British Columbia Act</i> Compliance	Corporate Services	■	<b>Complete December 2, 2024</b>	<del>Q3</del> Q4 2024
Long Term Financial Planning Update – Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy	Financial Services and IT	■	<b>Complete</b>	Q4 2023
Asset Management Program—Recreation Inventory and Plan Development	Parks and Recreation	■	<b>Complete;</b> Results to be incorporated into the Facilities Master Plan	Q3 2024
Improved budget documentation	Financial Services and IT	■	<b>Complete</b>	Q2 2025
Asset Management Program—Storm Sewer Master Plan	Engineering and Public Works	●	Flow monitoring, model calibration and analysis, and a water quality review of outfalls finished in Q1. Pipe condition to be integrated with network capacity to determine project prioritization and overall network assessment in Q2.	<del>Q2 2025</del> <del>Q1</del> Q2 2026
Asset Management Program—Facilities Master Plan	Engineering and Public Works	●	Work is well underway for a long-term assessment of municipal facilities that builds off the recently completed building condition assessments to develop an overall asset management plan.	<del>Q1</del> Q2 2025 <del>Q1</del> Q2 2026

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## GOOD GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Asset Management Program—Sanitary Sewer Master Plan	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Complete;</b> received by Council in February 2025	<del>Q2-Q4 2024</del> Q1 2025
Recreation Strategic Plan	Parks and Recreation		RFP consultant retained and strategic planning is underway. Final report will be completed in May of 2026.	<del>Q1 2026</del> Q2 2026
Pavement Condition Assessment and Management Plan	Engineering and Public Works		<b>Complete.</b> Pavement Management Plan presented to Council as part of the Capital Program Update in Q1.	<del>Q3 Q1 2026</del>

- Proposed/Not yet funded
- On track
- Issues or concerns
- Project at risk
- Complete



# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

## STRONG RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

Project	Department	Status	Status Details	Completion
Gorge Bridge Midden Site Signage	Strategic Initiatives		Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation have now both identified Council representatives to work with the Township on this signage. Content is in development.	Q3-2024 Q3-2025 Q1 Q3 2026
Develop opportunities for service agreements with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations	Strategic Initiatives		Departments working in applicable areas (e.g., archaeological requirements)	Ongoing
Community to Community Engagement (Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation)	Strategic Initiatives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Community to Community dinner &amp; flag raising completed November 2024 - ongoing engagement incorporated into operational planning and outcomes.</li> <li>&gt; Relationship Agreements in progress with both Songhees Nation and Xwsepsum Nation, which considers the establishment of regular leadership and staff meetings.</li> </ul>	Q2 2026

Proposed/Not yet funded  
 On track  
 Issues or concerns  
 Project at risk  
 Complete

# POTENTIAL FUTURE PROJECTS

**These projects have been identified by Council as candidates for the Council Priorities Plan.**

They will be formally assessed by Council in upcoming strategic priorities discussion in the 2026-2030 term

Project	Department	Council Priority
Ground-oriented small developments	Development Services	Housing
Parkland placement, acquisition and management	Parks and Recreation	Engaged & Healthy Community
Develop concept for Select Health Care Committee	Development Services	Engaged & Healthy Community
Official Community Plan Major Review (Recommended)	Development Services	Housing
Affordable Housing Strategy (Recommended)	Development Services	Housing
E&N Corridor Reconciliation Initiative	Strategic Initiatives	Strong Relationships and Partnerships

# RELATED DOCUMENTS

- > Official Community Plan
- > 2025 Financial Plan Bylaw
- > 2024 Annual Report
- > Period reports
- > Active Transportation Network Plan
- > Climate Action Plan
- > Art in Public Spaces Plan

Find these and other corporate documents on [Esquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca) or visit Esquimalt Municipal Hall at 1229 Esquimalt Rd.



Highrock Park



Dellwood Street

## STAY IN TOUCH

Township of Esquimalt council meetings are live-streamed and are open to the public.

Subscribe to receive council agendas to your inbox at [esquimalt.ca/subscribe](https://www.esquimalt.ca/subscribe)

## FIND US ONLINE

 [EsquimaltBC](https://www.instagram.com/EsquimaltBC)

 [Township of Esquimalt](https://www.facebook.com/Township of Esquimalt)

[esquimalt.ca](https://www.esquimalt.ca)

## IN PERSON

Esquimalt Municipal Hall  
1229 Esquimalt Rd.  
Esquimalt, B.C V9A 3P1

**250-414-7100**