

# Helmcken Walkshop



O C P U P D A T E - N E I G H B O U R H O O D W A L K S H O P S

## Background

*We are updating our Official Community Plan (OCP). Last updated in 2011, the Plan provides a long-term vision for the community and provides guidance on future planning and development.*

The current OCP has served the Town of View Royal well, so this work will be an update and not a major re-write. Still, there are some important issues and topics that require attention, feedback from the community, and focus in the updated OCP. Some of the key areas that Council and staff identified for additional review include:



**Housing Matters.** *View Royal housing needs, diversity, and options*



**Placemaking.** *Neighbourhood centres and urban design*



**Preparing for Change.** *Climate change and resilience*



**Moving Around.** *Transportation and the ways we get around*



**A Healthy Local Economy.** *A more resilient and diverse local economy*



**Our Natural Connections.** *Parks, protected areas, and shorelines*

The OCP update process is an opportunity to explore these areas (and others) in more detail and to get community feedback on how we can best direct and prepare for change. Two-page backgrounders on these six topics are available on the OCP update project page [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca). You are encouraged to read these topic backgrounders before attending a walkshop, if you are able.



## ABOUT THE WALKSHOPS

*From September 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, the Town is hosting 1.5 hour walks in five neighbourhoods:*

- Admirals Portage
- Harbour / Firehall
- Helmcken
- Hospital
- Island Highway / Casino

*The walks are short walking distances to allow plenty of time for discussion.*

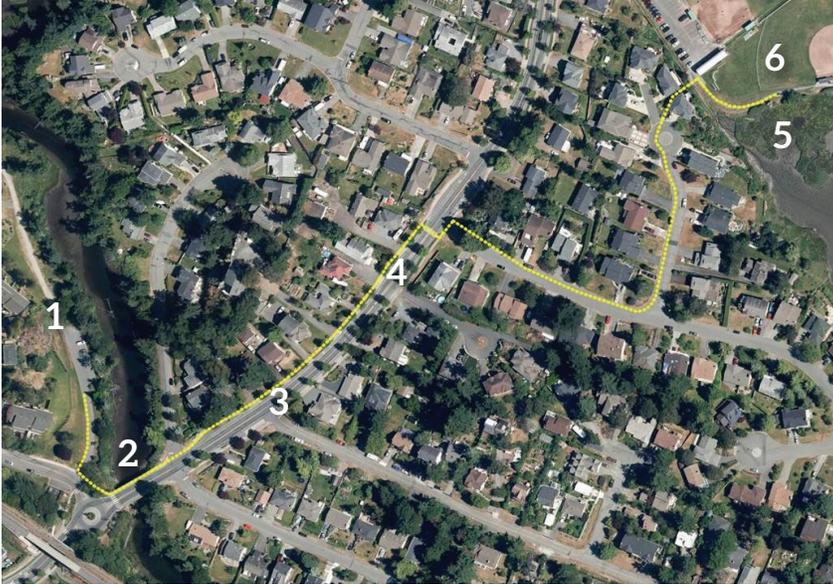
*The purpose of the 'walkshops' is to:*

- Explore key topic areas from a future planning perspective, with Town of View Royal staff
- Provide feedback on key issues, opportunities, and challenges from your perspective

## Helmcken Walk Route

This route highlights the two major parks in the Helmcken area, illustrates the vulnerability of some of these areas to sea level rise. It shows the minimal cycling connection that the Town has in north-south directions compared to the excellent east-west routes. What is the future of residential land uses and density on the Helmcken corridor and neighbourhoods?

## Walking Route Map



### AGENDA

This is a 1.5 hour walk (rain or shine). Please arrive ten minutes before the start time you signed up for at 12 noon or 5pm.

Meet at View Royal Park entrance. We will:

- Share introductions and review the walkshop
- Walk from View Royal Park to Portage Park and back
- Pause at spots noted on the map to talk about important issues and topics
- Ask you to write on the map and fill in this form to share your thoughts. Please leave the pages you filled in with the Town staff person.

After the walkshop, a 'what we heard' summary report will be prepared. Feedback received will be summarized in that report, however input provided will not be linked with identifying information. To keep informed on the OCP update and see reports, go to the OCP webpage [www.viewroyal.ca](http://www.viewroyal.ca).

## On this walk, we will be discussing the following main topics that we would like your thoughts on:

1. View Royal Park, containing community gardens, playground, pump track, exercise circuit, loop walk and dog off-leash area. Example of placemaking
2. Craigflower Creek, sensitive estuary environment and subject to future sea level rise and associated flooding and extreme weather risks. A Development Permit Area exists along creek for the purpose of streamside protection. There is more potential naturalization on private property needed to help improve environmental quality.
3. The north-south routes in View Royal such as Helmcken Rd are attractive and well-manicured, but are challenged to meet a high level of cycling and pedestrian connectivity. The north-south active transportation linkages in View Royal could use improvement, especially with the grade changes (hills) associated with the existing routes. This is the primary north south connector in View Royal and is a critical corridor for ease of access to services.
4. Low-density detached residences still dominate this route. Should we be considering additional housing on the corridor? What about the neighbourhoods behind the corridor? What might be a good future fit for this area?
5. Sea level rise risk in this estuary and for the surrounding lands and many of the properties that are on Portage Inlet.
6. Helmcken Centennial Park, used mostly for sports and the playground. Completing a plan for this park is in the current 5 year financial plan.

# What's Your View? In 2040...

*Please imagine yourself in 20 years – your personal, family and community needs in 2040, and beyond. What does your future self need for housing? Services? Aging well, or starting out as a young person, in View Royal? How will you and others get around the Town and the region? What kind of policies or actions would best support positive future economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes? What impacts from climate change are you dealing with?*

The Town of View Royal Official Community Plan's purpose is to describe the community's long term vision and policies that will guide future land use decisions. In considering the following questions, please stretch yourself forward 20 years, or more, to help direct View Royal's future that supports well-being, sustainability and resiliency.

**Draw a heart, triangle, or star on the map to let us know what things you love, what things you want to see changed, and what you desire for the future!**



**Things You Love**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



**Things You Want to See Change**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



**A Desired Future**

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
-

Please take a moment to think about and answer these questions while you're out on your walk!

1. What do you like about this neighbourhood and wish to see protected?
2. Do you have concerns about this area that you would like to see addressed?
3. What are your future aspirations? What are your wishes for this neighbourhood? Or for the Town generally?
4. Should we be considering additional housing in this neighbourhood? What kind of housing might be a good fit for adding density this area?
5. What do you think View Royal can do to become more sustainable, resilient, and adapt to climate change?

6. What street do you live on? (optional): .....



*At the end of the walk, please leave the pages you filled in with the Town staff person.*