

it's your City!

VIU and City Partnership Supports Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve

Vancouver Island University and the City of Parksville are working together to support and protect the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve designation. VIU and the City recently signed a memorandum of understanding intended to establish a foundation for regional cooperation in areas of mutual benefit and interest pertaining to the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Reserve (MABR).

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the MABR to ensure environmental, economic and social (including cultural and spiritual) sustainability. The City and VIU share similar interests and support the mandate and goals of the designation and will work together as caretakers of the MABR to enhance the regional benefits derived from such a designation.



Did you know...

There are 16 biospheres in Canada with two in British Columbia - Mount Arrowsmith and Clayoquot. Canadian biospheres receive financial support from Environment Canada and logistic support from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program [www.unesco.org/mab] and the Canadian Biosphere Reserve Association [www.cbra-acrb.ca].

The Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Foundation was formed in 1996 to establish a biosphere reserve comprising the watersheds of Vancouver Island's Mount Arrowsmith and adjacent marine areas. In 2000, the MABR achieved recognition as a biosphere reserve with the assistance and consultation of local and senior governments, First Nations, businesses and other interested parties.

The MABR covers about 800 square kilometres of land and an additional marine area of about 400 square kilometres. The reserve extends from the top of Mount Arrowsmith - at 1,817 metres, the highest mountain on southern Vancouver Island - to the bottom of the Strait of Georgia, at 300 metres in depth. The MABR includes five complete and substantial watersheds which drain from Mount Arrowsmith and Mount Moriarty into the Strait of Georgia, the Nanoose Peninsula and the Ballenas/Winchelsea Islands Archipelago. This vertical range from mountain peak to seabed makes the MABR unique among biosphere reserves in Canada.

ERWS Feedback Opportunity

In December, the Englishman River Water Service engaged CH2M HILL Canada along with subconsultants to provide engineering services for the design of a new water intake, treatment plant and supply mains and the development of an innovative aquifer storage and recovery system to supplement existing water supply. As well, CH2M HILL is working with ERWS, City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo to develop project consultation to ensure the community is fully informed. Participating in a community working group, representatives from several organizations will provide advice to the project team on items of concern as well as options and issues to be addressed during the design process.



ERWS is now engaging the public through PlaceSpeak, an online consultation platform (www.placespeak.com/englishmanriver). An online survey will be available later this month and a public open house will be held in May. Residents are encouraged to sign on to PlaceSpeak and join the conversation.

City Budget Update

The 2014 provisional budget was presented to Council in October. Because the development cost charges bylaw amendment was in the public consultation stage and scheduled for completion in December, the budget process was put on hold to include changes arising from the DCC consultation. The adjusted DCC plan was brought to Council on January 20 with final adoption anticipated in the spring.

The City is now moving forward with the 2014 final budget which includes the 2014 provisional budget items, the new DCC amendments, 2014 assessment changes including new construction and unfinished projects from 2013 and other changes not already included in the 2014-2018 provisional financial plan. Presentation of this plan to Council and the public will take place in April. The Community Charter requires the plan be adopted by Council by May 15.

City Dates

February 13	Coffee with Council
February 17	Council Meeting
February 20	Coffee with Council
February 27	Advisory Planning Commission
February 27	Coffee with Council
March 3	Council Meeting
March 6	Coffee with Council
March 13	Coffee with Council
March 13	Advisory Design Panel
March 17	Council Meeting
March 18	Council Advisory Committee

City Services

Spring Grant-in-Aid Applications

Subject to the provisions of the City's Grant-in-Aid applications policy, the City may provide financial assistance to community groups and organizations for events that benefit our citizens and visitors. Community non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services fields are eligible applicants. Deadline is 4 pm, February 28. Information on this program, the policy, application and instructions may be obtained at City Hall or from the website [[Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications](#)].



Residential Family Water Rates

Large families with five or more immediate family members consisting of parents and dependent children less than eighteen years of age may qualify for modified water rates. Application deadline is February 28 at 4 pm. Information and application forms may be obtained from City Hall and from the City's website [[Residents/Utility Billing](#)].



Water Main Flushing

The City's annual water main flushing program will run from February 17 to March 28, 7 am to 3.30 pm, weekdays. Residents should expect some discolouration of water and intermittent drops in water pressure. During flushing, residents are encouraged to keep a fresh supply of drinking water and to check for discolouration of water before doing laundry. If water is discoloured, run an outside tap (after 3.30 pm) until the water runs clear.

Spring Wood Chipping Program

The City's annual wood chipping program is scheduled to run from March 24 through April 17. Collection details will be posted on the City's website [[Newsroom/Public Notices](#)] and included in next month's City news page. The dates crews will be in neighbourhoods will also be advertised in the PQB News. Please direct questions to 250 248-5412.

Things to know...

Council meetings held in the Forum may be viewed live and archived from the City's website ([home page link](#)). Questions should be directed to 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca

The public is encouraged to attend Council meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month and is welcome to observe advisory committee meetings. Please refer to the City's website for agendas, dates and times as well as Council meeting highlights and minutes.

How to Reach Council

MAYOR

Chris Burger..... 250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS

Al Greir.....250 248-1285
 Marc Lefebvre250 248-2292
 Peter Morrison.....250 240-4050
 Bill Neufeld250 954-2063
 Sue Powell.....250 951-1082
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Pinterest: [pinterest.com/cityparksville](https://www.pinterest.com/cityparksville)

It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca.