

2017 COMMUNITY PROFILE



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The **2017 Community Profile** serves as a guide to companies, organizations and individuals who require information about the City of Parksville. We have used our best efforts to ensure that the information is correct and current.

The City distributes the Community Profile under the strict condition that the City of Parksville will not be liable or responsible for the accuracy of the information in this document.

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VANCOUVER ISLAND OVERVIEW

Situated on the west coast of Canada, Vancouver Island is the largest island on the west coast of the Americas, encompassing an area of 31,261 square kilometers, being approximately 460 kilometers (286 miles) long and 50 to 80 kilometers (30 to 50 miles) wide. Without Vancouver Island, the coasts of British Columbia and Washington would not have such features as the ports of Vancouver and Seattle, the Gulf Islands, the Inside Passage or the mild, protected climate that these areas enjoy.

The capital of British Columbia is Victoria, which is situated on the extreme southern tip of Vancouver Island. Vancouver Island is known for its diversity of nature, weather, scenery and wildlife, making it a world class destination for tourists and a paradise for residents. The diverse climate and geography of the island has created a magnificent backdrop for the many activities such as fishing, boating, cycling, skiing, kayaking, whale watching, sightseeing and beachcombing.



LOCATION

The City of Parksville is located 150 kilometers (94 miles) north of the provincial capital of Victoria and 37 kilometers (23 miles) north of Nanaimo. The region is referred to as the “mid-island” area, due more to its proximity to populated areas than its geographical location. To the west of Parksville is Canada’s rugged west coast with the cities of Port Alberni, Ucluelet and Tofino which offer excellent recreational facilities and spectacular scenery. North of Parksville is Qualicum Beach, Courtenay, Comox, Campbell River and Port Hardy. These municipalities provide services to the north island area and also provide excellent recreational facilities. Many facilities and activities are within 2.5 hours of Parksville, with the majority being within an hour drive. Parksville is a 30 minute drive from the City of Nanaimo which offers shopping, theatres, ferries, airlines, and a seaport. Further south is the City of Victoria, the capital of the Province of British Columbia and a major center of tourism and business.

The City of Parksville is part of the Regional District of Nanaimo which includes the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, District of Lantzville and areas surrounding these centers.

Driving Travel Times

From	To	Principle Route	km	mi.	Time
Parksville	Campbell River	Hwy 19 heading Northwest	117	73	1 hr, 25 mins
Parksville	Courtenay	Hwy 19 heading Northwest	68	42	0 hrs, 48 mins
Parksville	Duncan	Hwy 19, 1 heading South	87	54	1 hr, 0 mins
Parksville	Port Alberni	Hwy 19, 4 heading West	50	31	0 hrs, 40 mins
Parksville	Port Hardy	Hwy 19 heading Northwest	355	221	4 hrs, 25 mins
Parksville	Tofino	Hwy 19, 4 heading Southwest	171	106	2 hrs, 10 mins
Parksville	Victoria	Hwy 19, 1 heading Southeast	147	91	1 hr, 50 mins

GEOGRAPHY

The City of Parksville is situated in a protected bay on the east coast of Vancouver Island. The area is mostly level with gently rolling hills. To the west, a mountain range protects the area from the wet Pacific weather systems that nourish the west coast rainforests. Mount Arrowsmith is the closest mountain to Parksville rising 1,817 meters (5,961 feet). To the north and south, the rolling coastline continues. The waterfront forms the northern border of the City and the warm ocean waters provide for a mild climate. The area has many rivers and streams with a few lakes to the north and west. Small islands dot the inner coastline with larger islands to the north and south in the Strait of Georgia. The Strait of Georgia separates Vancouver Island from the mainland of British Columbia and forms the majority of the famous “Inside Passage” marine route to northern British Columbia and Alaska. The Inside Passage is used by yachts, cruise ships and commercial vessels.

CLIMATE

The City of Parksville enjoys a mostly mild, sunny climate due to the sea-level elevation and protected location. The predominantly wet Pacific weather systems of the west coast release their moisture as they cross the Vancouver Island mountains, resulting in a much drier climate on the east coast. The mild climate and low rainfall has been instrumental in attracting large numbers of retirees from across Canada to the area. Although Parksville enjoys a four season climate, it is not unusual to see golfers on the course in January while skiers enjoy the deep powder of nearby mountains and boaters are out enjoying the ocean.

HISTORY

Vancouver Island’s south eastern coast has been inhabited by the Coast Salish First Nations people for thousands of years. The Coast Salish had villages and settlements extending from Victoria to Campbell River when Captain George Vancouver explored the area’s coast in 1792. In the 1860’s, a trail was blazed up island from Victoria to Comox. The area was then known as “Englishman’s River” or “The River” after an Englishman supposedly died crossing the unnamed river in the 1850’s.

The Hirst family was the first settlers to the area, arriving in 1870 and quickly followed by other settlers willing to pay \$1 an acre for raw, uncleared land. In 1886, a 38 km long wagon road was completed from Nanaimo. By 1889, the area population was 38, enough to become the official settlement of Parksville, named after John Parks, the area's first postmaster. In 1894, the first church was built at French Creek and in 1898, the Hirst family opened the Rod & Gun Hotel, still open today. By 1910, the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway (E&N) connected the area to Nanaimo at McBride Junction, the site of the old Parksville train station. Parksville's early growth and an anecdotal history of early settlers is documented in a book written by local historian, Marjorie Leffler, entitled *Parksville and Then Some*.

In 1945 Parksville was incorporated as a village, becoming a town in 1978. By 1981, the population exceeded 5,000 people and Parksville officially became a City. In the mid 1990’s Parksville reached an unprecedented growth rate that consistently exceeded 5% per year, resulting in a 1997 population of just over 10,000 people. Parksville has continued to grow and thrive to the present day, welcoming many new residents and visitors alike.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The City of Parksville has a strong sense of community, demonstrated by the number and variety of community resources that are readily available. [City's Welcome Guide](#)

- Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce provides relocation information (250 248-3613, info@parkvillechamber.com)
- For a warm welcome and information, please refer to the Parksville Newcomers Club website <http://parkvillenewcomers.net/>
- For a list of volunteer opportunities, visit the Oceanside Volunteer Association website <http://oceansidevolunteer.org/>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Fire Department

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department operates out of a fire hall located at 160 Jensen Avenue West, in the centre of town. The department employs three career firefighters, one part-time support staff member and up to 40 on-call volunteer firefighters. The fire hall is equipped with two pumper vehicles, one aerial vehicle, one rescue-pumper vehicle, one tender and one special operations trailer for support of technical operations. <http://pvfd.ca/>

Police Department

Policing is carried out by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at a precinct in Parksville.

727 West Island Hwy, Parksville 250 248-6111

Ambulance Service

The BC Ambulance Service, which maintains a permanent station in Parksville with two ambulances in service.

493 Alberni Hwy, Parksville 250 248-5632

HEALTH AND FAMILY RESOURCES

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital

NRGH provides emergency, intensive care, diagnostic, MRI, surgical, long-term care and general hospital services including cardiology, renal, maternity and pediatric care. The hospital is located in central Nanaimo, about 35 minutes south of Parksville.

1200 Dufferin Crescent, Nanaimo 250 755-7691 <http://www.viha.ca/locations/nrgh.htm>

Oceanside Health Centre

489 Alberni Highway, Parksville 250 951-9550 <http://www.viha.ca/locations/oceanside.htm>

Health Care Professionals

Parksville is home to a number of health care professionals, including general physicians, naturopathic physicians, optometrists, physiotherapists, massage therapists, dentists, chiropractors and acupuncturists. The following resources will assist in finding care:

Vancouver Island Health Authority <http://www.viha.ca/services/>

HealthLink BC <http://healthlinkbc.ca/servicesresources>



Family Resources

District 69 Society of Organized Services (SOS)

Provides information and referrals to existing child, youth, family and seniors services

250 248-2093 www.sosd69.com

District 69 Family Resource Association

The Family Resource Association provides a variety of child and family programs

250 752-6766 www.d69fra.org

Seniors Care Facilities and Resources

Name	Beds	Address	Phone/Email
Stanford Place	181	250 Craig Street	250 951-0811 www.stanfordplace.ca
Trillium Lodge	90	401 Moilliet Street	250 947-8230
Arrowsmith Lodge Cokley Manor	75 30	266 Moilliet Street	250 248-4331- Arrowsmith 250 947-9777 –Cokley www.arrowsmithlodge.ca
Halliday House	8	188 McCarter Street	250 248-2835
Little Mountain Manor	8	959 Little Mountain Road	250 248-4591 www.littlemountainmanor.com
Oceanside Manor	6	758 Soriel Road	250 951-2304

District 69 Society of Organized Services (SOS)

250 248-2093 www.sosd69.com

Parksville Seniors' Activity and Drop-In Centre

250 248-3200

Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association (PGOSA)

www.pgosa.org

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Public Transportation

The Regional District of Nanaimo provides public transit between Parksville, Qualicum Beach and Nanaimo daily except Sundays. The rider's guide, including routes and schedules, is available at: <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=686>.

Information line for Transit Parksville/Qualicum Beach area: 250 954-1001

HandyDART Bus - Parksville/Qualicum Beach Area

The HandyDart bus provides custom public transit for persons who are mobility challenged and cannot access regular buses. They serve the area from Cedar in the south of the Regional District to Qualicum Beach in the north.

250 248-4557



Private Transportation

Cabs, car rentals, buses, boats, airplanes and helicopters are all available on a fee for service basis. In addition, shuttle service to the airport and ferry terminals is available.

Airports

Qualicum Beach Airport (CAT4)

250 752-6921 <http://qualicumbeach.com/cms.asp?wpID=286>

Comox Valley Airport (YQQ)

250 890-0829 <http://comoxairport.com>

Nanaimo Airport (YCD)

250 245-2157 <http://nanaimoairport.com>

Float Plane Service

Harbour Air operates from Nanaimo Harbour to downtown Vancouver.

250 714-0900 <http://harbour-air.com>

Seair Seaplanes also operates routes from Nanaimo Harbour to Vancouver and Richmond.

1 866 692-6440 <http://seairseaplanes.com>

BC Ferries

Regular sailings from Nanaimo (Departure Bay) to Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) and from Nanaimo (Duke Point) to Vancouver (Tsawwassen), as well as sailings to and from other destinations including the Sunshine Coast and the Southern Gulf Islands. 1-888-223-3779 www.bcferrries.com

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

School District 69 Qualicum serves the Parksville area and provides public education from kindergarten to Grade 12. French immersion programs are also available.

Elementary Schools

There are two School District 69 elementary schools located within Parksville city limits. School District 69 also operates elementary schools located in Nanoose Bay, Errington, Qualicum Beach and Bowser.

- École Oceanside Elementary School
250 248-4662 <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/OES/Pages/default.aspx>
- Springwood Elementary School
250 248-2038 <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/SES/Pages/default.aspx>

Secondary Schools

There are two School District 69 secondary schools located within Parksville city limits. School District 69 also operates a secondary school located in Qualicum Beach.

- Ballenas Secondary School
250 248-4241 <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/BSS/Pages/default.aspx>
- PASS –Woodwinds Alternate School
250 248-2969 <http://www.sd69.bc.ca/school/PASS/Pages/default.aspx>



Universities/Colleges

Vancouver Island University operates a campus in Parksville located at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, 100 Jensen Avenue East. The main VIU campus is located in Nanaimo, within a 40 minute drive of Parksville.

- Vancouver Island University
250 248-2096 (Parksville) or 1 888 920-2221 (Nanaimo) <http://www.viu.ca/parksville>

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Parksville Civic and Technology Centre

One of the largest institutional developments in recent years is the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. The Centre is a 3,853 square meter (41,000 square feet) development on part of an 8 hectare (20 acre) site. The site is also the centre for civic, community and educational uses. Current public sector occupants include the Parksville campus of Vancouver Island University, the Parksville branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, the administrative offices of School District 69 Qualicum and City of Parksville offices.

Parksville Community and Conference Centre

The Parksville Community and Conference Centre, adjacent to the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, has rooms of varying sizes and includes an auditorium/theatre, change rooms, a small boardroom, kitchen facilities and 4 rooms [ranging from 35-110 capacity each] which can be opened up to accommodate larger groups.

250 248-6234 <http://parkvillecentre.com>

Libraries

Parksville is served by the Vancouver Island Regional Library, which operates a branch located in the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre. VIRL also operates a branch in Qualicum Beach.

- Parksville branch
250 248-3841 <http://virl.bc.ca/branches/parksville>

Recreational Facilities

The Regional District of Nanaimo operates many of the public recreational facilities including the Oceanside Place ice arena and the Ravensong Aquatic Centre. For more information about community facilities and local organizations, the Regional District of Nanaimo publishes a comprehensive Community Directory which can be obtained at any of their facilities or online at <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=1613>.

RDN Recreation

250 248-3252 <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wplD=128>

PARKS

City Parks

The City of Parksville has three major parks, the Community Park, Springwood Park, and Top Bridge Park, as well as 28 neighbourhood parks. The neighbourhood parks vary in size and facilities, from small open spaces to larger parks with children's play areas, trails, and basketball hoops. Among the neighbourhood parks are several natural, treed parks complete with accessible nature trails.

The Community Park was established in 1963 and encompasses 39 acres of land complete with beach frontage. Facilities include sandy public beach, washrooms, children's play park and water park, outside shower, flower displays, varied tree collection, sports field, tennis courts, beach volleyball courts, waterfront walkway, group picnic shelter, skateboard park, picnic tables and ample free public parking. A group picnic shelter and a beach-front gazebo are available for bookings for special events and weddings.

Springwood Park is Parksville's main sports field complex. The park encompasses 21 acres consisting of 6 ball diamonds, 6 tennis courts, grass fields for soccer, field hockey, field lacrosse, football, with a perimeter trail system connecting to the 13.5 hectare (32 acre) Ermineskin Park trail system and the Maple Glen linear park trail.

Top Bridge Park consists of 15 acres, which encompass walking trails, a mountain-biking trail system, and a pedestrian-only suspension bridge spanning the Englishman River. This bridge links the trails to the RDN trail system across the river. The park is a popular local outdoor swimming area for families during the summer months.

Parks and Open Space

Major parks and open space	163 hectare [400 acres]
Natural parks and trails	135 hectare [333 acres]
Streets	67 hectare [165 acres] or 87 kilometers [54 miles]
Bicycle routes	20 kilometers [12 miles]

City of Parksville, Parks

Regional, Provincial and National Parks

There are many regional, provincial and national parks in the immediate area. These parks serve a variety of recreational and environmental purposes. The Regional District of Nanaimo operates more than a dozen regional parks, which include many walking, hiking and cycling trails. Complete information on regional parks and trails, including maps, can be found on the RDN website at <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=848>.

BC Parks has designated several provincial parks in the Parksville area, and also in neighbouring communities. Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park is a popular camping spot located in Parksville.

Spider Lake and Horne Lake are popular lake destinations for swimming or boating, and Horne Lake also boasts many incredible natural caves that can be explored on guided tours. Little Qualicum Falls and Englishman River Falls are home to beautiful walks complete with waterfalls. MacMillan Park, often known as Cathedral Grove, is the site of an awe-inspiring old-growth forest with trees more than 800 years old.

The Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is only a few hours' drive from the Parksville area on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The park is home to the world-famous Long Beach, West Coast Trail and the Broken Group Islands. The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada is also located nearby, including Mayne Island, Saturna Island and Pender Island.

LOCAL EVENTS

There are a wide range of community and regional events and activities for all ages and interests. Events range from the New Year`s Day Polar Bear Swim, ice-carving, the Brant Wildlife Festival, street festivals, the Summer by the Sea street market, rodeos, bike competitions, baseball, dance, drama and other visual and performing arts, rock climbing, downhill and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, yacht racing, car shows, caving, fresh and saltwater fishing, golf, beach volleyball, sandcastle building, and craft fairs. For an up-to-date listing of events, see the Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association events calendar at <http://www.visitparksvillequalicumbeach.com/events>

Parksville and the surrounding region have the capacity to host major sporting and recreational events, including walks, races and tournaments. Existing facilities are available to host provincial and national scale events. If you are interested in planning an event in Parksville, contact the Oceanside Tourism Association at 250 248-6300 or <http://visitparksvillequalicumbeach.com>

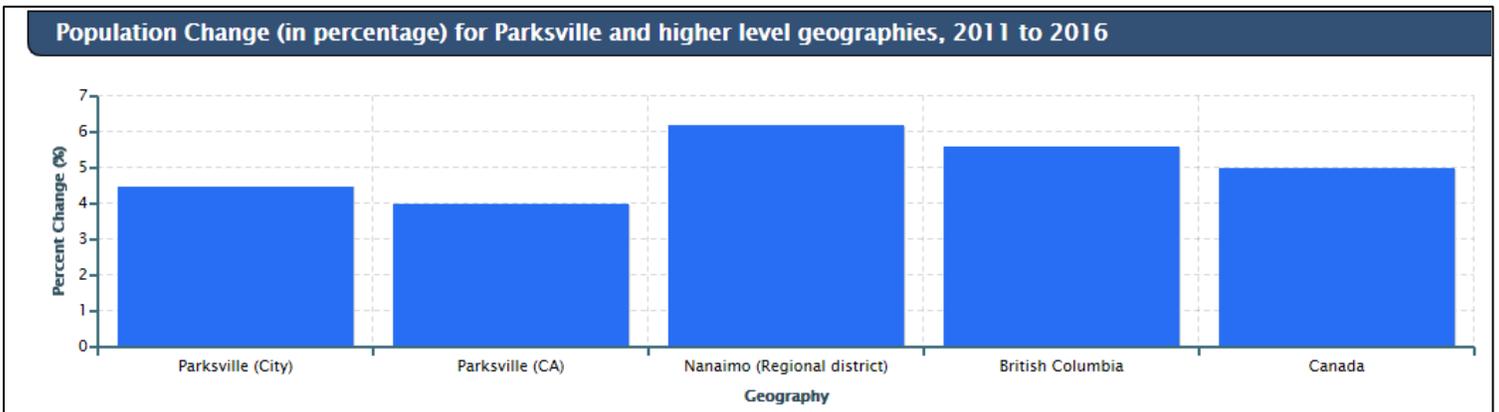
POPULATION AND GROWTH

The 2016 Census shows the population of Parksville as 12,514 residents, which is an increase of 4.5% from 2011. This compares to the provincial average of 5.6% and the national average of 5.0%. The land area of the City of Parksville is 14.56 square kilometers and the population density was 859.6 people per square kilometre. In 2016, there were 6,082 private dwellings occupied in the City of Parksville, which represents a 7% increase from 2011.

Parksville as a census agglomeration (CA) includes the population of the municipality as well as two RDN electoral areas. Parksville as a City encompasses the population within the Parksville municipality boundaries. Nanaimo as a Regional District encompasses the municipalities of both Parksville and Nanaimo as well as the population of the RDN electoral areas.

Note: The Census population count may appear lower than the actual number of people living in Parksville at any given time. The reason for this is that there are a significant number of people who live in their Parksville dwelling for six months or less in a year. They may be counted at their other residence.

Note: As statistics from the 2016 census become available, this document will be updated.



2016 Census - Parksville, BC

Characteristic	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Population and dwellings						
Population, 2016 ¹	28,922	...	...	4,648,055	...	...
Population, 2011 ¹	27,822	...	...	4,400,057	...	...
Population percentage change, 2011 to 2016	4.0	...	...	5.6	...	...
Total private dwellings ²	14,642	...	...	2,063,417	...	...
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents ³	13,751	...	...	1,881,969	...	...
Population density per square kilometre	353.3	...	...	5.0	...	...
Land area in square kilometres	81.86	...	...	922,503.01	...	...

2016 Census - Parksville, BC

Population Age Breakdown

Age	Parksville (CA)	Parksville (CITY)	Nanaimo (RD)
0 to 4	700	375	6,010
5 to 9	795	400	6,060
10 to 14	1,075	500	7,000
15 to 19	1,275	530	8,210
20 to 24	880	410	7,675
25 to 29	695	365	7,185
30 to 34	760	430	6,735
35 to 39	900	445	7,110
40 to 44	1,205	585	8,550
45 to 49	1,585	655	10,400
50 to 54	1,900	735	12,005
55 to 59	2,345	925	12,515
60 to 64	2,965	1195	12,835
65 to 69	2,990	1150	10,440
70 to 74	2,590	1050	8,045
75 to 79	2,100	845	6,355
80 to 84	1,595	685	4,915
85+	1,480	700	4,535
TOTAL	27,822	11,977	146,574

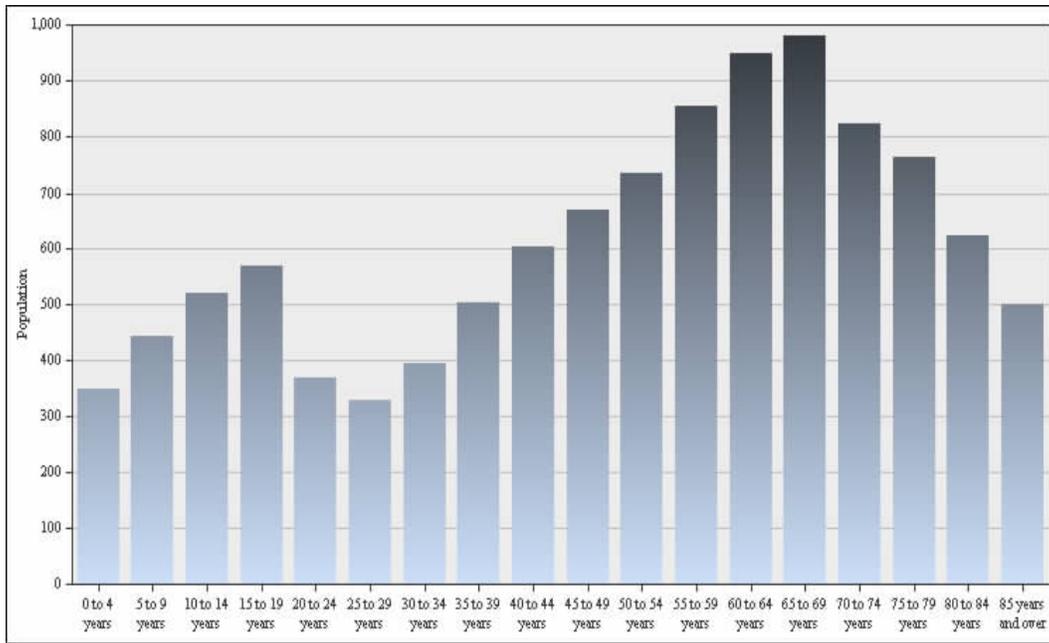
Source: 2011 Census, StatsCanada

Historically, the growth rate of Parksville has exceeded both the province and the region. Parksville's mild climate and excellent location has always attracted retirees and the City can anticipate further growth from this rapidly growing sector of the population.

Parksville offers an attractive lifestyle, fast and easy access to major centers, state-of-the-art communication systems and close proximity to world-class recreational resources. As new businesses realize the advantages of locating in lifestyle-orientated communities, Parksville should continue to experience further growth of residents and businesses. By encouraging new business and educational facilities, Parksville hopes to continue to attract a skilled, educated and diverse labour force within the community.

The population of Parksville is noticeably different than both the provincial and national averages. This is due to the large number of retirees in the area. According to the 2011 Census, the median age in the City of Parksville was 58.2 years. In comparison, the median age of British Columbia was 41.9 years. In 2011, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over in Parksville (CY) was 37.1%, compared with a national percentage of 14.8%.

Parkville Age Characteristics

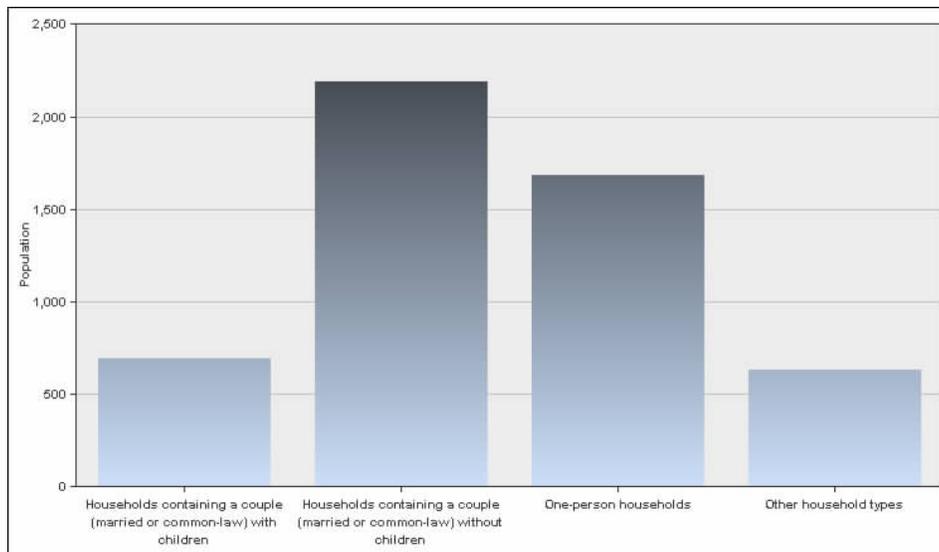


2006 Census - Parkville, BC

HOUSEHOLDS

A large majority of Parkville households consist of two people in a single family dwelling, owned by the occupants.

Parkville Household Characteristics



Source: 2006 Census - Parkville, BC

HOUSING

Rental Market

Up-to-date rental market information can be found in the rental market statistics report published twice a year by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. This report can be obtained online at no charge at [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Rental Market Statistics](http://www.cmhc.ca)

Real Estate

Parksville and the surrounding areas are served by a number of major real estate companies. Presented in chart form below, are the single-family residential units sales, average sale prices and median price information for all zones within the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board.

Median Price: An actual sale at or immediately adjacent to the midpoint in a price group. In the case of an even number of sales, the median is the highest price in the lower half of that price group. Please note: The Board Totals figures also include: Zone 7-North Island, Zone 9-Out of Board Properties, and Zone 10-Islands figures which are not listed separately in this table.

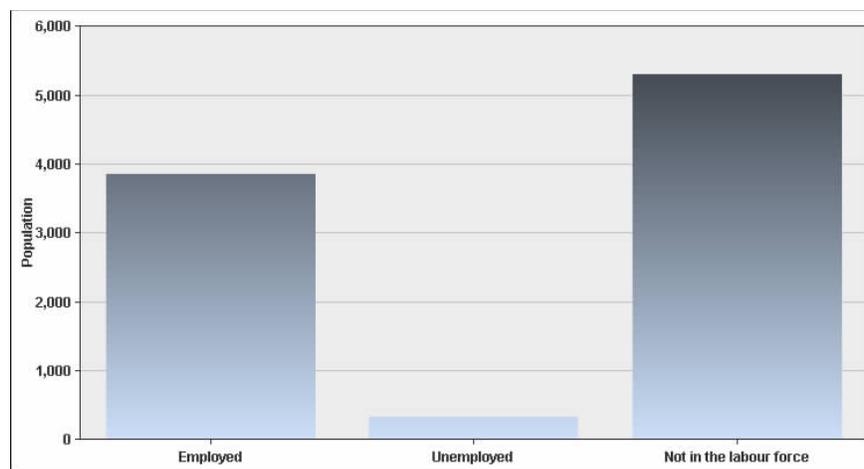
Vancouver Island Real Estate Board

- 250 390-4212, <http://vireb.com>

LABOUR FORCE

Due to the high proportion of retirees in Parksville, much of the population is not in the labour force. This does not adversely affect the local labour market due to the close proximity of Nanaimo, where a large labour market is readily available.

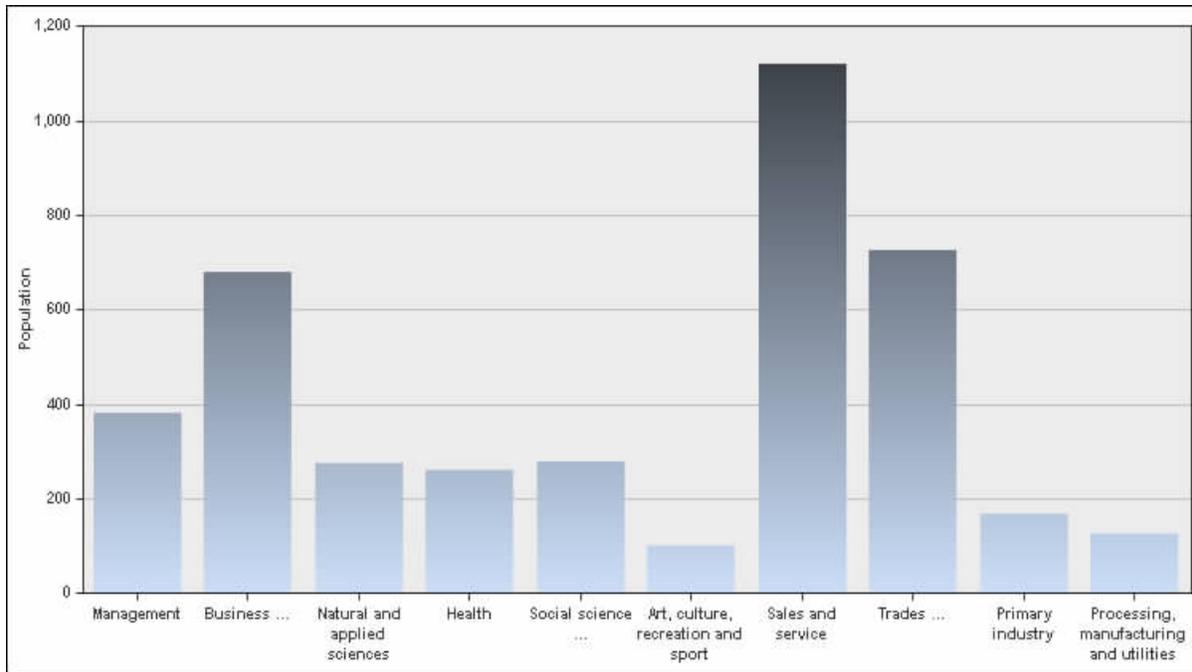
Parksville Labour Activity



Source: 2006 Census - Parksville, BC

As illustrated, the private-sector businesses of retail, tourism and construction provide much of the area employment while School District 69 and the Island Health Authority are two of the largest public sector employers in the area.

Labour Force by Occupation

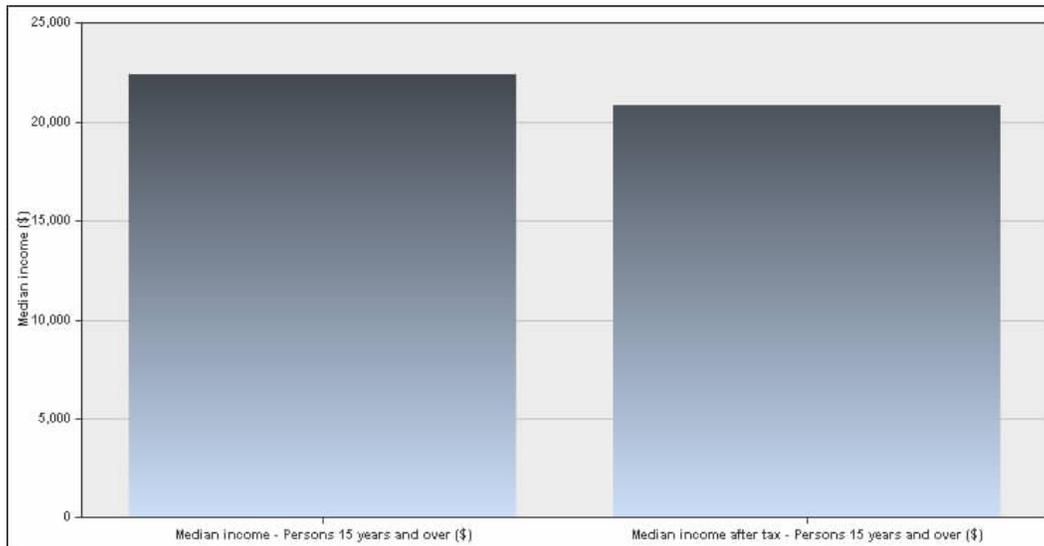


Source: 2006 Census - Parkville, BC

INCOME

According to the 2006 Census, the median **household** income for the City is \$42,053 whereas the median household income for BC is \$52,709. *Figure 17* illustrates the median **individual** income for Parkville residents.

Median Income



Source: 2006 Census - Parkville, BC

ECONOMY

Parksville is an extremely attractive destination for retirees, tourists and families with young children. Parksville's beautiful natural setting and mild climate allows for many outdoor activities year-round; the area is home to many excellent golf courses, as well as local businesses catering to outdoor hobbies including surf shops and bicycle stores. Parksville is also fortunate to enjoy many of the amenities of a larger city, including unique shops, world class spas, and a wide range of dining and accommodation options to suit a variety of visitors.

The resource based industries of forestry and fishing that once dominated the economy have been surpassed by the growth in the retail, wholesale trade, construction and many health and education sectors. Health, education, finance and real estate are sectors which have grown continuously to become major markets in Parksville's economy. With a sizeable trade area encompassing residents from Bowser to Nanoose there is potential for economic growth.

Vancouver Island Economic Alliance

- 250 667-5225, <http://viea.ca>

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Most major financial institutions operate branches in Parksville, including Bank of Montreal (BMO), Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto-Dominion Canada Trust Bank (TD), and the Coastal Community Credit Union.

RETAIL

Parksville is fortunate to enjoy many local retail businesses which maintain a high standard of quality and selection. The main retail area in Parksville is the downtown core, with approximately 19,000 square meters [200,000 square feet] of commercial space. Other small retail locations are located at Wembley Mall, located slightly north of downtown.

The City of Parksville is home to an established Business Improvement Area for downtown Parksville, which is governed by the Downtown Business Improvement Area Establishment Bylaw, 2009, No. 1453. The BIA funds, administered by the Parksville Downtown Business Association, are used to enhance the business climate in the downtown core.

Parksville Downtown Business Association

- 250 248-8079, <http://parksvilledowntown.ca>

TOURISM

Tourism is a major contributor to the Parksville economy. Vancouver Island, as a tourist destination, is second only to the Vancouver Coast and Mountains region. This does not come as a surprise to those familiar with this beautiful, diverse island blessed with a mild year-round climate. Parksville is a major tourist destination which attracts a large percentage of the Vancouver Island tourism market. In addition, Parksville enjoys a wealth of outdoor recreational activities, including hiking, golf and beach volleyball, as well as more urban amenities including spas, unique shops and fine dining. It has been estimated that Parksville may receive as many as 500,000 visitors per year. Many people stop off at Parksville on their way to the northern areas of the Island or out to the West Coast.

Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association

<http://visitparkvillequalicumbeach.com>

Tourism Vancouver Island

250 754-3500 <http://tourismvi.ca>

CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

Parksville has several facilities available for conventions and conferences. Local resorts and hotels, including the Bayside Inn Quality Resort, the Beach Club Resort and Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort and Conference Centre have banquet and conference facilities available. For information on public convention and conference venues, including the Parksville Community and Conference Centre, refer to the Community Facilities section of this document.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

City of Parksville Community Planning Department

Phone: 250 954-4656 <http://parksville.ca/cms.asp?wplD=42>

Oceanside Development and Construction Association

Phone: 250 586-6214 <http://odca.ca>

INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING

The Parksville Industrial Park is a 32 hectare [80 acre] site developed by the City. The park facilitates light, clean industry serving the local area. Current users include a lumber and hardware supplier, a fitness facility, party/tent rental company, storage facilities, sign shop, guitar manufacturer and an animal feed and pet supply outlet. Further opportunities exist in this sector.

TECHNOLOGY

Given Parksville's appealing lifestyle, easy access to major centers and state of the art communication systems, it is natural for Parksville to accommodate the technology sector into long-term planning. Technology-based businesses can enjoy the attractive lifestyle of Parksville while conducting business world-wide. The Mid Island Science, Technology and Innovation Council supports small business owners and entrepreneurs in knowledge-based and manufacturing industries on Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. Its mission is to advance the growth and prosperity of technology industries.

Mid Island Science, Technology & Innovation Council

Phone: 250 753-8324 <http://innovationisland.ca/>

BUSINESS OPERATIONS INFORMATION

The following information is a general summary of some requirements and costs associated with building and/or operating a business in the City of Parksville. Building permit fees are based upon value and construction costs. Development cost charges (DCC's) are assessed by the City by area. Business licence costs vary depending on the type of business. For more information on building permits and business licences, including current fees and costs, please contact the City's Community Planning Department at 250 954-4656.

Employment Costs

The minimum wage in British Columbia as of September 15, 2016, is \$10.85 an hour for all employees, with a few exceptions. Wages obviously increase with skills, experience and aptitude. Typical semi-skilled wages are between \$13 and \$16 per hour.

Business Facility Costs

For information on commercial or industrial lease rates or land costs, contact a local realtor. A list of real estate companies that serve the Parksville area can be found in the Housing section of this document.

Property Tax Rates

The current property tax rate analysis is available on the City's website <http://parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=74>

Other Taxes

There are various taxes payable on federal and provincial income, property, fuel, etc. It is best to consult your accountant or the applicable governing authority to estimate these costs.

INFRASTRUCTURE

UTILITIES

Water and Sewer Service

Water services for Parksville and the surrounding area are managed by the Arrowsmith Water Service, a joint venture between the Regional District of Nanaimo, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach and the Englishman River Water Service, a joint venture between the City of Parksville and the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Sewer services in Parksville are installed and maintained by the City of Parksville. The City currently maintains approximately 50 kilometers of sanitary sewer mainlines, two sewer lift stations and approximately 4,000 service connections. The City's sewer is collected and fed to the French Creek Pollution Control Centre, which is operated by the Regional District.

Englishman River Water Service

250 951-2480 <http://englishmanriverwaterservice.ca>

City of Parksville Utilities Department

250 951-2470 <http://www.parksville.ca/cms.asp?wpID=70>

RDN French Creek Pollution Control Centre

1-877-607-4111 <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1167>

Electrical Service

BC Hydro delivers electricity through a network of world-class systems providing safe, efficient and competitively priced electricity throughout British Columbia.

BC Hydro

1-800-224-9376 <http://bchydro.com>

Natural Gas Service

Fortis BC provides natural gas to Vancouver Island via an undersea pipeline from the mainland.

Fortis BC

1 888 224-2710 <http://fortisbc.com>

TRANSPORTATION

Roads and Highways - Parksville is serviced by the main Vancouver Island Highway #19, which bypasses Parksville. This four lane limited access highway was completed in 1997 and runs from Victoria to Campbell River, greatly reducing travel time between the major centers. Highway 19A and the Alberni Highway run through the middle of Parksville and connect the City to Highway #19. The internal road network of Parksville is typical of any major city and new roads are designed under the latest engineering standards.

Freight and Courier Services - Parksville is serviced by the major national freight and courier companies. Heavy trucking and reefer services are available from numerous sources and limited container service is available. Canada Post operates a post office in Parksville, as well as other small branches located in local businesses.

Bus Service - Passenger and parcel bus service is available on a regularly scheduled basis throughout the Island with connections to Vancouver and the United States.

Marine Transportation - All commercial marine transportation is handled in Nanaimo. Two provincial ferry terminals service a fleet of regularly scheduled ferries between Vancouver Island, the mainland and the Gulf Islands. The Port of Nanaimo operates a deep sea shipping and container facility to various countries. These facilities are capable of handling any freight, cargo, and passenger services to Vancouver and points beyond.

Air Transportation - Please refer back to the transportation section under Community Services in this document for this information.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

Telephone, cable and satellite television, and internet services are all available in the Parksville area. These services are provided by major Canadian providers including Telus and Shaw.

Television –A worldwide network of television stations is available through cable, satellite and internet services.

Radio - Vancouver Island is served by the Island Radio, a division of the Jim Pattison Broadcast Group. Local radio stations are 88.5 the Beach (CIBH-FM) and 99.9 the Lounge (CHPQ-FM) broadcasting from Parksville.

<http://www.thelounge999.com/>

<http://www.885thebeach.com/>

Newspaper - Local news and other coverage is published in the local newspaper, the *Parksville Qualicum Beach News*

<http://www.pqbnews.com/>

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Domestic garbage and recycling collection is provided by the Regional District of Nanaimo. The RDN also provides curbside food waste collection. This "Green Bin" program diverts organic kitchen and food waste away from local landfills into processing for compost and potentially renewable fuels. A transfer station for sorting and recycling waste is operated by the Regional District of Nanaimo and is located just outside the City limits.

RDN Solid Waste Services

250-954-3792 <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=98>

Church Road Transfer Station

250 248-5254 <http://rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=1509>