



## GREAT IDEAS FOR GREAT NEIGHBOURHOODS

Curious to learn what's happening in your neighbourhood and other neighbourhoods in Victoria? Looking for some local and global inspiration for community building and placemaking ideas? Here are some ideas, resources and updates to help you create a vibrant neighbourhood.

### IDEAS FROM AROUND THE CITY

**FRIDAY  
FEB 17  
2023**  
RANDOM ACTS OF  
KINDNESS DAY 😊

Let's spread  
kindness throughout  
Greater Victoria!

Now more than ever, we need a little kindness in our lives. Random Acts of Kindness Day (RAK Day) encourages community members to do something nice for someone and ask for nothing in return, except that they "pay it forward" with an act of kindness. The act doesn't have to be big or expensive; it only needs to spread kindness in your community. This year's theme is "Make Kindness the Norm." There are many ways you can share kindness

in the world but if you need some inspiration, check out the [Victoria Foundation RAK Day](#) ideas for adults and kids. You can also follow them on social media for kindness inspiration during the month of February.

### Locally Built Accessible Tables

A new kind of picnic table is rolling out across Victoria. So far, you can find them at Songhees Point, Clover Point and Topaz Park, among others. There's even an oversized, 20-foot harvest table version of the new design near the Ross Bay cemetery. The tables are being built in-house by City carpenters and cost \$5,600 to \$6,200. Tables are being installed during capital projects, wherever a picnic table should go. The design—now a city standard—has been in use since 2020. There are about 14 now in place, including along Dallas Road. The new picnic tables have already seen creative and flexible uses that weren't possible before with the old designs. Parents with children in strollers fit on the extended bench with their child in front of them in the stroller. They can use the adjacent tabletop when they're stopping to feed their kids or for hanging out face-to-face. The tables also better accommodate those using mobility aids.



**Your Neighbourhood Liaison**  
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The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees and Esquimalt people.

# MY GREAT Neighbourhood

## Boulevards and Biodiversity

Boulevards are everywhere in cities, and are typically patches of grass or plants lining roadways and sidewalks. Many boulevards and manicured lawns are ecological dead zones, meaning they offer little in the way for wildlife like food and habitat. Transforming these undervalued patches of land into ecological havens filled with native plants, wildflowers, trees, and/or shrubs is low-hanging fruit when it comes to supporting biodiversity. If managed strategically, nature-full boulevards can increase biodiversity and support ecosystem services, including pollination. Once plant biodiversity is teeming along our boulevards, many other kinds of wildlife will be attracted to this new habitat including pollinators and birds. The City of Victoria has been a leader in developing [boulevard gardening guidelines](#) and has been held up across North America as an example of empowering residents to turn these strips of grass into a bio-diverse haven for pollinators. Now is the time to think about what you might want to do with the boulevard fronting your street. Planting a pollinator garden with your neighbours is a great project idea that could be supported through a [My Great Neighbourhood Grant](#). The bees and butterflies will thank you.



## IDEAS FROM FURTHER ABROAD

### Developers Seek to Create Solar Neighborhood



*Digital rendering of residents of Veridian at County Farm at the community garden*

Ann Arbor MI is getting one of the first 100% solar-powered, carbon-neutral and fossil fuel-free communities in the U.S. The idea is to pioneer the creation of neighborhoods that limit their contribution to climate change. The motivation is to build sustainability and fight climate change where the developer (who is considered one of the world's net zero energy building leaders) lives, hoping other communities will do the same. Sustainable neighborhoods like Geos Neighborhood in Arvada, Colorado, are growing in size and number in the U.S. This project is unusual because it's creating one of the nation's first mixed-income sustainable communities. Construction began in early 2022 with people expected to be moving in late this year. Sales prices are expected to be roughly

\$800,000 for a one-family home, comparable to similar but more traditionally built new homes that cost about \$1 million in Ann Arbor. Of the 80 planned homes, 50 of them will be affordable housing rental townhomes that will rent for roughly \$650 to \$950 USF a month. Each home will have all-electric appliances powered by solar panels. They will be built with sustainably harvested wood, and the appliances and building materials will be free of toxic chemicals. ([thrive-collaborative.com](https://thrive-collaborative.com))

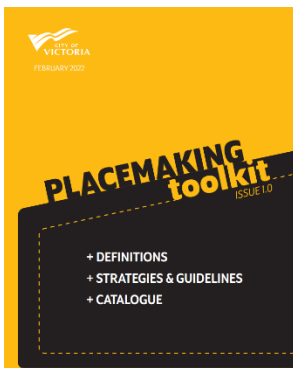


## MAKING IT HAPPEN

### Neighbourhood Associations and the City

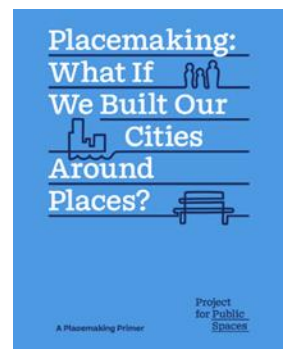


The Neighbourhood Team recently hosted a primer on the city's neighbourhood associations and their relationship with the City. You can watch the recording [here](#) and follow these additional links to learn more about [neighbourhood associations](#) and how the [City supports](#) them.



### Placemaking: What if We Built Our Cities Around Places

The US based **Project for Public Spaces** has updated their [free placemaking booklet](#) to make it easier for more people to learn about placemaking, its benefits, and the principles underlying the process. They have also included some tips on how to get started on your very own placemaking project. Another great resource for placemaking is the City of Victoria's [placemaking toolkit](#) that in addition to great information, provides local guidance.



**Looking for more ways to stay in touch?** Sign up for our [City e-newsletter](#) for monthly updates on City programs and initiatives.

Wanting to stay engaged? Register with our [Have Your Say Engagement Portal](#). You'll get a monthly update about current engagement opportunities to participate in surveys and other online engagement opportunities.



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