

# 2026 City Budget

## Understanding your Property Taxes



MAY 2026

### Property taxes are due

Find ways to pay at [vernon.ca/propertytaxes](http://vernon.ca/propertytaxes)



### Apply for tax bill savings

Check if you're eligible at [gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant](http://gov.bc.ca/homeownergrant)

#### What do your municipal tax dollars pay for?

Each property tax bill contributes to the services that make Vernon a great place to live. Property taxes account for approximately **58%** of the City's total budget.

<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY</b> Police & Fire	41% ≈ \$995
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; PUBLIC WORKS</b> Roads & City Services	25% ≈ \$607
<b>HEALTHY COMMUNITIES</b> Parks & Recreation	13% ≈ \$316

*\*The remaining 21% of the average tax bill covers administration, planning and development, and debt servicing.*

*\*\*Dollars based on average residential assessment.*

#### Your tax bill includes amounts for other taxing authorities:

City of Vernon		59%	≈	\$2,427
Schools		25%	≈	\$1,032
Regional District North Okanagan		9%	≈	\$353
Library & Other		3%	≈	\$108
Hospital		4%	≈	\$165

*\*for an average residential property tax bill of \$4,085*

### Investing in our community

Over **11%** of taxation is invested in major capital projects, through the infrastructure levy. Other investment priorities include:

- Transportation
- Drainage & Wildfire Prevention
- Major Construction
- Parks & Recreation

### Where does the money come from?

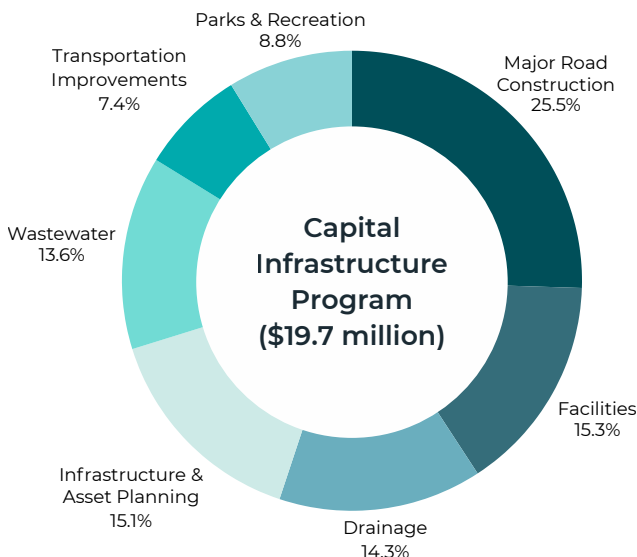
The City of Vernon works to rely less on property taxes by bringing in money from other sources. About **42%** of City revenue comes from things like:

- Fees & Charges
- Utility Services
- Government Grants
- Development Cost Charges
- Interest Earnings

### Efficiencies, savings, and smart spending

The City is committed to finding smarter, more efficient ways to deliver services while keeping costs in check. In 2025, this meant streamlining processes, reducing our energy consumption, and making more effective use of staff time and equipment. Efficiencies were also realized in the delivery of capital projects, including more strategic sourcing of materials and supplies.

At the same time, the City strengthened its financial position by generating revenue through user fees, permits and licences, and investment income. Together, these efforts help offset operating costs and reduce the overall impact on taxpayers.



Visit [vernon.ca/budget](http://vernon.ca/budget) for full budget details, capital project highlights, revenue breakdowns, and more.



## Emergencies can happen anytime, often without warning.

As summer approaches, it's time for the community to take proactive steps to prepare for wildfire and emergency season.

### FireSmart your home

Taking action to FireSmart your property will dramatically decrease the risk of wildfire damaging your home. The best part is, it's easy to do. For tips, visit [FireSmartBC.ca](https://www.fire-smartbc.ca).

### Receive emergency notifications

Download the Alertable app, the City's emergency notification system to receive real-time alerts about evacuations, wildfires, and other emergencies. Learn more at [Vernon.ca/Alertable](https://www.vernon.ca/alertable).

## Make a plan to leave at a moment's notice

Do you know how you would leave your home quickly if an evacuation is required?

- Plan multiple evacuation routes and identify where you would go
- Prepare a grab-and-go kit with essentials such as medications, important documents (including insurance papers), clothing, and supplies for pets.
- Create a profile with Emergency Support Services through the Evacuee Registration and Assistance system to help speed up access to support during an evacuation. Learn more at [ess.gov.bc.ca](https://www.ess.gov.bc.ca).

## Tips to FireSmart Your Home

Taking action to FireSmart your property will dramatically decrease the risk of wildfire damaging your home. The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do.

Clean under your deck to remove any combustible material. Establish a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around the perimeter of the house and deck.

Clean and maintain gutters and roofs. Keep decks and balconies clear of leaves and debris.

Keep grass and weeds cut below 10 centimetres.

Have a wildfire evacuation plan and make sure everyone in your household knows what to do.

Download the FireSmart home assessment and do a self-assessment of your home and property.

Hold sheds and other structures to the same standards as your home.

Relocate propane tanks 10-30 meters from your home, and keep combustible vegetation a minimum of 10 metres from propane tanks.

Move firewood and lumber 10-30 meters away from home.

Prune trees to create a two-meter clearance from the ground to the lowest branches.

Add non-combustible 3 millimetre screens to external vents (except dryer vents).

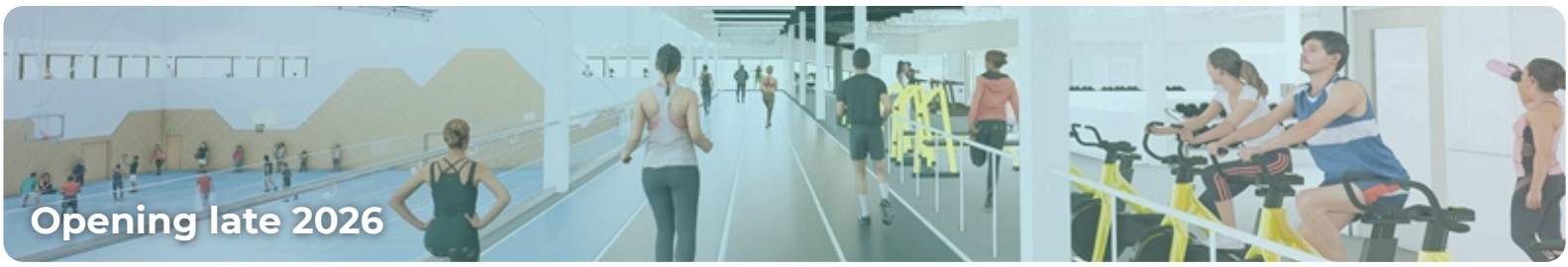
Reduce the flammability of your landscaping and plant wildfire resistant vegetation. [Learn landscaping.](#)

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**FireSmart**

Learn more at [FireSmartBC.ca](https://www.fire-smartbc.ca)





## Opening late 2026

The new Active Living Centre is your hub for activity, connection, and fun. A first of its kind in BC's Interior, it's packed with state-of-the-art amenities built for how Vernon moves.

Designed to be inclusive, accessible, and family-friendly, the Active Living Centre will serve as a vibrant gathering place for residents of all ages—strengthening community connections while supporting health and well-being across Vernon.



### Water Features

- Waterslide & spray features
- Beach entry to leisure pool
- Steam room & sauna
- 2 hot tubs
- Cold plunge
- 25m & 50m pools
- NinjaCross activity centre
- Climbing wall & wave pool



### Health & Fitness

- Walking & running track
- Indoor pickleball & volleyball
- Fitness centre
- Strength & conditioning classes
- Yoga & wellness classes
- Cycle & movement classes
- Zumba & dance classes
- Lunchtime express classes



### Programs & Spaces

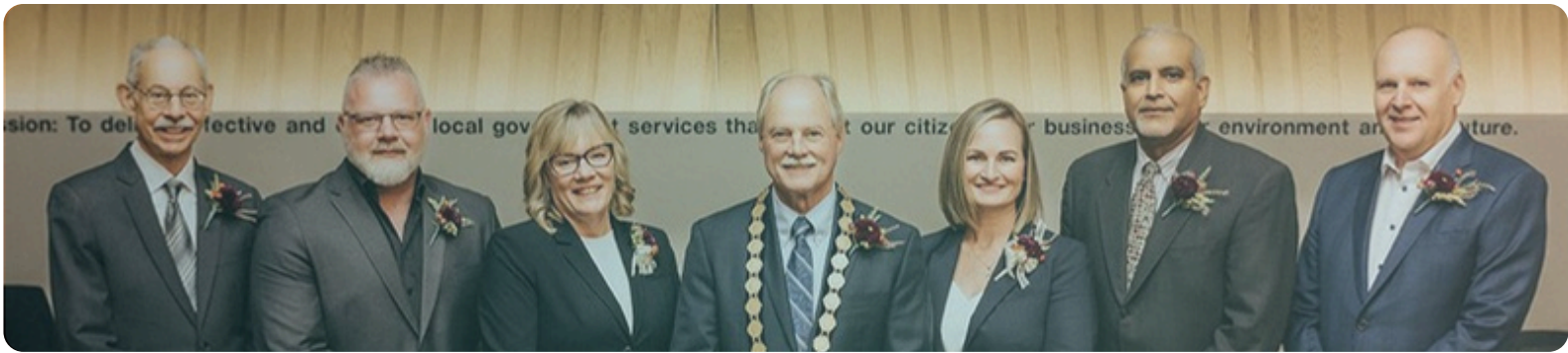
- Community living room
- 8 multi-purpose rooms
- Expanded swim lessons
- Youth programs
- Parent & tot play programs
- Child minding
- Children & youth sports
- Adult sports and leagues

## Get involved!

Stay up to date on all you need to know about the Active Living Centre, with memberships and pricing coming soon, at [vernon.ca/alc](http://vernon.ca/alc).

Inform future programming at the Active Living Centre! Share your ideas at [letstalkvernon.ca/alc](http://letstalkvernon.ca/alc).





2025 was a year of steady progress for the City of Vernon, with investments that helped make the community safer, more connected, and more livable. Improvements to roads, public safety, parks, and public spaces supported Council's goal of building a strong and resilient city.

Projects across the City improved travel, supported emergency response, and upgraded parks and community spaces. Together, these efforts help meet the needs of a growing community today and into the future.



## Community safety

- Approved funding to add two new RCMP officers, increasing local policing capacity
- Signed a Mutual Aid Agreement between Vernon Fire Rescue Services and Lake Country Fire Department to improve emergency response and coordination



## Traffic flow & safety

- Completed two new roundabouts at Pleasant Valley Road and Silver Star Road to improve traffic flow and reduce collision risk
- Completed rock scaling and stabilization along Eastside Road to improve roadway safety



## Parks & public spaces



- Continued work on the Polson Park Vernon Creek Naturalization Project, restoring the creek corridor and supporting a more resilient ecosystem
- Resurfaced courts at MacDonald Park to support active recreation
- Planned installation of new playground equipment at several parks in 2026
- Completed cemetery beautification, including new flower beds at the entrance
- Advanced planning for a new columbarium

