



# Market Park

CRESTON'S DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT



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# Introduction

To look at it now, you may not think much about the approximately one-hectare parcel of land adjacent to the railway tracks, located between the Chamber of Commerce and the Independent Grocery Store. However, this brownfield site took on many roles throughout Creston's history to economically support a growing community. In the early 1900s, C.O. Rogers established a sawmill on a portion of the site which eventually became Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd. The mill operated for many years but eventually closed its doors in 1991. In 1939, the Creston Reclamation Company established the Sunset Seed Company and elevator to process and ship seed crops being grown in the neighbouring valley bottom. In 2008, a fire destroyed the iconic elevator, which was never rebuilt. Since the late 1900s, most of the site was also home to Creston Building Supplies Ltd., followed by Beaver Lumber and then Home Hardware. In 2009, Home Hardware relocated, leaving a vacant brownfield site behind. Today, the site is seasonally occupied by the Creston Farmers' Market.





Did you know that Market Park is mentioned 43 times in the Official Community Plan?

But, Creston has a vision to transform this underutilized brownfield site into something spectacular – *Market Park*. The mission of *Market Park* is to create a permanent venue that emphasizes Creston’s history, landscape, and beauty. The visionary public space will introduce green space, provide a permanent home for the Creston Valley Farmers’ Market, celebrate the heritage and culture of the Lower Kootenay Band and Yaqan Nukiy people, encompass recreational features, and serve as a social and multi-modal transportation hub for the community.

The Official Community Plan (2017) features *Market Park* as a foundational component of the Community Vision. Consultation began in 2014 and included RDCK Electoral Areas, Yaqan Nukiy, local businesses, and the general public. In-person consultation included over 500 individuals of all age groups and backgrounds. The *Market Park* project was shown to have widespread community support. *Market Park* will provide a multi-purpose community hub that will generate new business opportunities for vendors of the Farmers’ Market, create direct spillover revenue for nearby businesses, and recirculate these dollars into the larger business community. These impacts are anticipated to accelerate economic recovery, stimulate business growth, create jobs, increase tourism, and improve the economic resilience of the entire Creston Valley.

*Market Park* is a recognized community priority – help us make it a reality.



# What is Market Park?

*Market Park is a proposed public space nestled between Highway 3 and the Canadian Pacific Railway, spanning from the Creston Valley Grain Elevators to the new Creston Community Services Building.*

## The Mission

Market Park will be a central gathering place where people are motivated to stop, linger, and explore the Park, downtown, and the greater Creston Valley.

## The Goal

Create a vibrant public space for people to:

- Stop
- Relax
- Explore
- Learn
- Shop
- Experience

## The Vision

The Town of Creston Freshly Picked Future: Official Community Plan features Market Park as a foundational cornerstone of the community's vision.

- Project initiated in 2013
- In-person consultation included over 500 individuals of all age groups and backgrounds
- Creston citizens directed the Town of Creston to “Establish the future Market Park as the heart of downtown and as a central gathering place for the Creston Valley...”

**Market Park became a designated community enhancement project.**

Market Park builds on the community goals of: Valley Collaboration, Quality of Life and Inclusive Local Identity, Connectivity, Economic Prosperity, and Downtown Vibrancy.



## Public Amenities

- Green space
- Recreation
- Permanent home for the Creston Valley Farmers' Market
- Gathering and event space
- Covered patio
- Picnic area
- Parking/RV parking
- Multi-modal transportation hub
- A place for Yaqan Nukiy Amakis (land where the rock stands)
- A place to meet, share, and reflect the culture of the Yaqan Nukiy people



# The benefits for Creston and beyond

## Creston's Downtown

- Increased economic activity
  - Spillover revenue
  - Local dollars
- Increase equity
  - Low barrier business and employment opportunities
  - Venue for small business incubation
  - Accessible space for all to explore and circulate dollars back into the community

## The Town of Creston

- Gathering place
- Green space
- Active transportation hub
- Connection between physical places and people

Yaqan Nukiy Amakis will be an important step to advancing the understanding, appreciation, and celebration of the Yaqan Nukiy. The potential for Creston Market Park to be a place that encourages connection is immense.  
~ Tanya Wall, RDCK Area B Director





It will be a driving economical force for farmers and artists alike... I love the connectivity of the park...  
I am confident that it will become a jewel in the core of our Town and community!  
~ Kootenay Region Association for Community Living

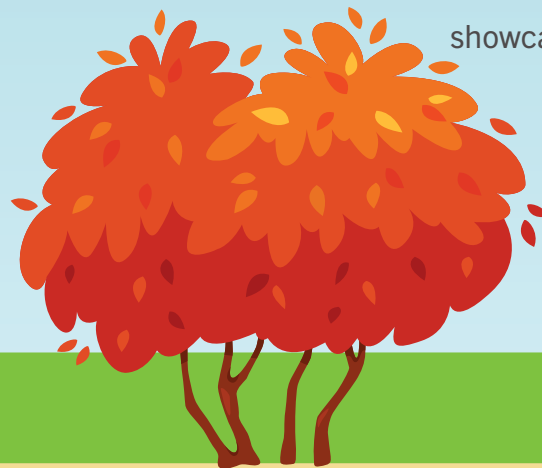
## The Creston Valley

- Permanent location for the Farmers' Market
- Local business growth
- Job creation
- Increase tourism
- Economic resilience
- Sustainability
- Food security
- Relationship building
- Education

## The Kootenays

**We are interconnected!**

Market Park will bring communities together through various community events, strengthen community connections, and showcase a sense of shared identity.



# Project Highlights

*Market Park is a detailed project. The project will be constructed in layers from the ground up. Once complete, some major project highlights will include:*

## Sustainability

- Native vegetation
- Street trees
- Rain gardens and natural storm water management system
- Yaqan Nukiy Amakis will include a natural wetland to manage water drainage and retention
- Local food and goods production
- Local employment

## Accessibility

- Several different hard surface treatments to ease accessibility
- Wayfinding signage
- Clear points of entry

## Cultural Representation

- Yaqan Nukiy Amakis
- Local art
- Supporting Creston as an agricultural community

## Connection

- Multi-modal transportation hub
- Create public access from the iconic Creston Grain Elevators to the entry point of Creston's trail network
- Walking paths
- Way-finding

## Gathering Places

- Permanent location for the Farmers' Market
- Year-round market opportunities
- Seating
- Market plaza for performing arts and other community activities
- Picnic and leisure areas
- Incredible vista views of the valley



# Connecting our Neighbourhoods and Community

During the Official Community Plan engagement process, the Creston community expressed the importance of an interconnected network of urban trails strategically situated to reduce the need for commuting by vehicle, and enable and encourage a healthy and active population.

## Market Park will

- Serve as a thoroughfare for people commuting by alternative modes of transport
- Include many trails for accessing or strolling through downtown Creston

The Town of Creston notes Market Park as a key connectivity corridor to linking the Downtown commercial area with Millennium Park, RCMP, Creston Valley Library, and Dodd's Park (including the dog park, bike park, and Steve's Ride).

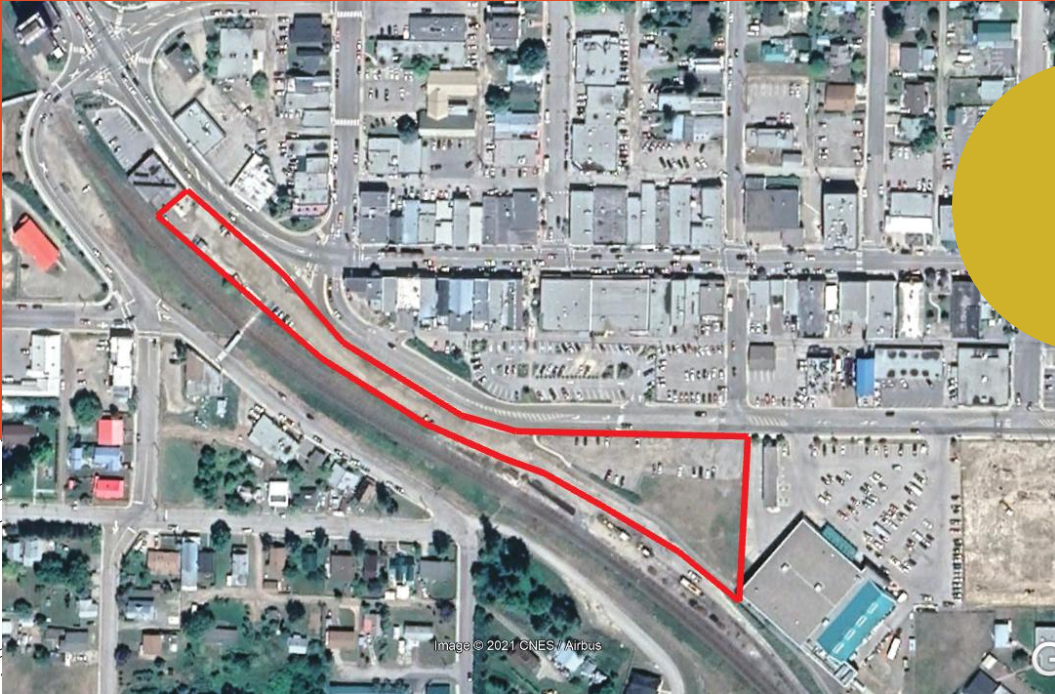
The Park will provide a central meeting and gathering place. This venue will provide a space for families and groups to gather, and the possibility for formal and informal concerts at which our local musicians can perform is limitless. ~ Chamber of Commerce



# Conceptual Site Plan

*Market Park shown in relation to Creston's downtown core*





Markets create spaces for learning... Market Park will enhance and further deepen life-giving connections between families and the Creston community.  
~ Trinity United Church





**Covered Patio**  
Pavios are lovely spaces that can accommodate a variety of activities. The covered patio in the Creston Market Park services both the Park and the Armitage Centre and is designed for both formal and casual uses offering views across the valley.



**Street Trees/Banners/Bollards**  
Street trees and banners signal your arrival to the Creston Market Park. Such an entrance says you have arrived at a special place, where something is happening that's calling you in.

A wide sidewalk lined with bollards creates a sense of safety, invites pedestrians to the ramp and creates a space for public benches, small gatherings, and vendors during Market days.



**Covered Market Stalls**  
The permanent structure of the covered market stalls create a permanent presence even on non-market days. The covers expand the market season.

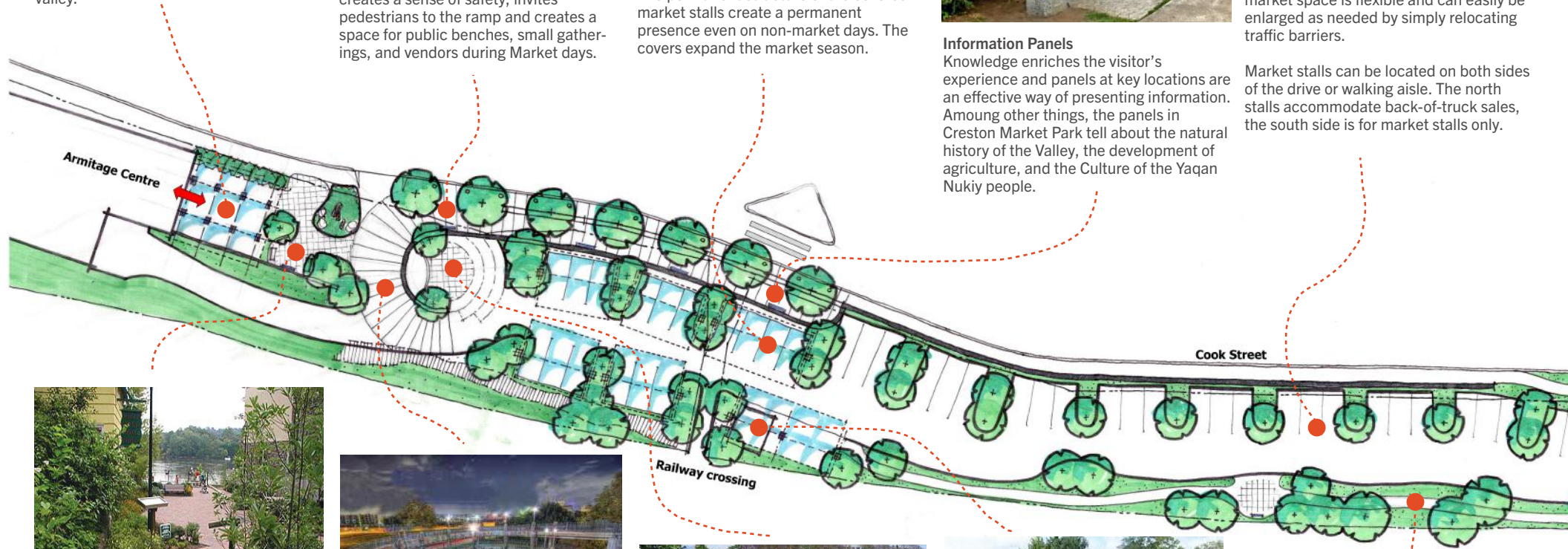


**Information Panels**  
Knowledge enriches the visitor's experience and panels at key locations are an effective way of presenting information. Among other things, the panels in Creston Market Park tell about the natural history of the Valley, the development of agriculture, and the Culture of the Yaqaan Nukiy people.



**Market in the Park**  
A combination of shade trees and parking stalls create a Market in the Park. The market space is flexible and can easily be enlarged as needed by simply relocating traffic barriers.

Market stalls can be located on both sides of the drive or walking aisle. The north stalls accommodate back-of-truck sales, the south side is for market stalls only.



**Seating Plaza**  
Located next to the patio, the seating plaza is designed as a small urban park with views over the Valley. Besides places to sit, the plaza includes an information panel on the agricultural history of the Valley, public art, and a Creston Visitor Information sign visible to vehicles from all three directions of approach.



**Ramp**  
The ramp provides a gentle transition from the upper sidewalk to the Creston Market Park level, about 6 feet lower, which can be used as an extension by vendors during market days.

The ramp also provides vehicle access for emergencies, Market vendors, and for serving the lower level of the Armitage Centre.



**Market Plaza**  
The market plaza is an outdoor amphitheatre-like facility designed for small performances, gatherings, and seating for visitors from the market stalls.



**Picnic Area & Public Washroom**  
A picnic area and public washroom serves the Creston Market Park year round. The restrooms are accessible from the Park as well as to pedestrians using the railway crossing. This structure would be a convenient location for the Farmers' Market storage.

**Trails**  
Trails through the Park are intended to be multi-use, that is, for recreation (walking, jogging, cycling), for commuting, for moving from the Creston Market Park to other amenities in Creston (such as downtown and Millennium Park), for movement within the Park, and for taking visitors through the experience of visiting the features of the Park and the information panels. Opportunities for sitting - resting and watching other visitors - are located along the trails



**Street Trees**

Street trees create a more pleasant and safer pedestrian experience, a more pleasing park landscape, and help to slow traffic along Cook Street.



**Parking**

The parking area at Yaqaan Nukiy Amakis is set amidst trees. It can be converted into market stalls for small events and includes six 49 foot long RV parking stalls.



**Gathering Circle**

The gathering circle, honouring the cardinal directions, is used for story telling and instruction about the Yaqaan Nukiy people and their history in the Creston Valley.

**Gateway Entrance**

A specially designed entrance to Yaqaan Nukiy Amakis - highlights the Yaqaan Nukiy culture, celebrates the entrance to the Heritage Park, and creates a visual presence along Cook Street and at the end of 12th Avenue.



**Ethnobotanical Garden**

The Yaqaan Nukiy Heritage Park is planted as an ethnobotanical garden highlighting plants of cultural significance. Information panels include common, Latin, and Ktunaxa names of plants as well as descriptions of common Ktunaxa uses.

This plan is supported by the entire community.  
~ Kootenay Employment Services



**Entrance Gate**

A specially designed vehicle entrance celebrates your entry to Creston Market Park. A pedestrian crossing here helps to bridge the gap between the Park and downtown and Cook Street parking. Entrance gates mark the beginning of a pedestrian precinct - the Market in the Park.



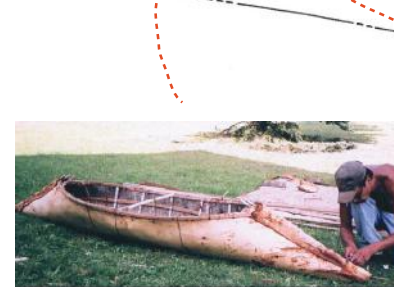
**Picnic Area**

A picnic area adjacent to the RV parking is not only convenient but provides views over the Valley and into the Yaqaan Nukiy Heritage Park.



**Constructed Wetland**

Surface water from the site is collected and stored on site in a constructed wetland. Wetland plants of cultural significance to the Yaqaan Nukiy people are featured and highlighted on an information panel.



**Yuksumit Sculptures**

A metal sculpture of the unique yuksumit (sturgeon-nose canoe) of the Yaqaan Nukiy people is located adjacent to the wetland with information about its traditional construction and use.



**Tipi Sculptures**

Tipi sculptures with information panels illustrate and outline the traditional life of the Yaqaan Nukiy people.

# Opportunities for Involvement

*Market Park is a BIG undertaking, which means local groups and stakeholders have several opportunities to get involved. Some projects that the community can get involved in include:*

- ▶ **Covered Patio**
- ▶ **Picnic Areas**
- ▶ **Washrooms**
- ▶ **Trails**
- ▶ **Public Art**
- ▶ **Seating**
- ▶ **Vegetation/Landscaping**
- ▶ **Financial Contributions**

*If you or your organization would like to get involved in this project, please contact:*

*Joel Comer, Municipal Services Coordinator  
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joel.comer@creston.ca  
250.428.2214 (x422)*





The Creston Farmers' Market is where my business took its feet off the ground, and I will always be grateful for the opportunities it has given my small business.

~ Brittany's Flower Farm

The Market Park project is much more than community infrastructure, it is a project of building relationships. Relationships are the building blocks for organizing a project which requires the support of local government, various community groups, and other levels of government.

Town of Creston can't work in isolation: we need to be working together! It is our relationships all added together that are the foundation of an organized effort for change. Look around at our community and you can see the fingerprints of many relationships at work every day that make Creston the beautiful community it is.

Relationships that need to be continued to be fostered to make this project a reality:

- Regional District of Central Kootenay
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Federal Government of Canada
- Provincial Government of British Columbia
- Local non-profit service organizations
- Fortis Gas and Electric
- Chamber of Commerce and the business community
- Residents of Creston

Market Park will revitalize the largest industrial brownfield site in our downtown core, create a vibrant outdoor space, provide a focal point of the rich Indigenous culture in the community, and promote tourism and local economic development.

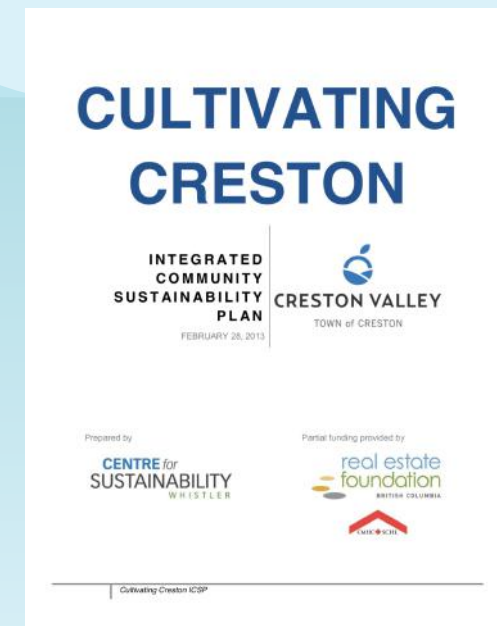
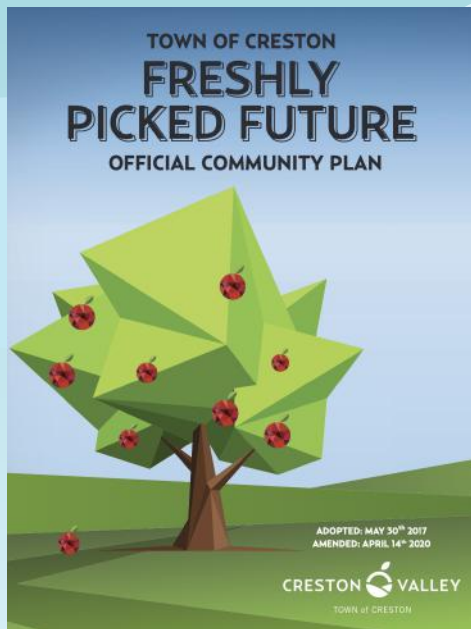
~ Economic Action Partnership



# Related Plans and Policies

Farmers' Market provides an accessible and vital service for the entire valley and is a primary destination for tourists. The design and attributes of Market Park will draw additional tourists.  
~ Food Action Coalition

Numerous Town of Creston plans and policies support the development of Market Park. Our Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 strives for a community that is inclusive, connected, celebrates art and culture, and recognizes and values the diversity of the people of Creston. Market Park supports these pillars while contributing to the Creston economy, food security, sustainability, and town vibrancy. The following related plans and policies support the development of Market Park and can be viewed at [www.creston.ca](http://www.creston.ca).





# CRESTON VALLEY

TOWN of CRESTON

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