

# Voght STREET PLANS

PART ONE

PART TWO

PART THREE



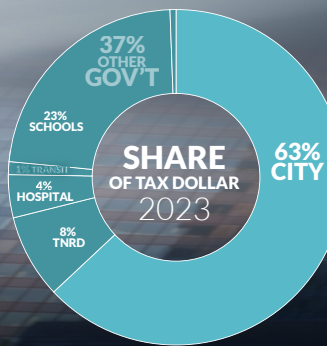
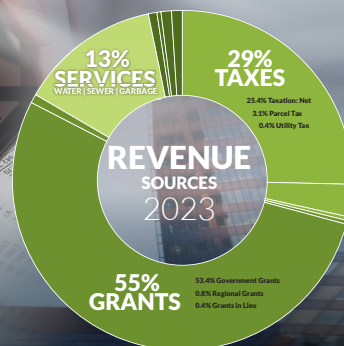
**The City plans to continue upgrading Voght Street from Blackwell Avenue to Belshaw Street and River Ranch Road.**

This road infrastructure project is a continuation of work already completed on Voght Street from Lions Park to Blackwell. The long-term plan for Voght Street calls for full upgrades, including active transportation pathways, water, sewer, storm drains, and roundabouts at two intersections: Grimmert Street and Walters Street.

While the City obtained some grant funding for this project, there is currently not enough funding to complete the entire project in 2023. As such, the full project will be divided into three sub-projects. Council has approved **Part One** of the upgrade from Blackwell to about the Hospital entrance. Work will commence summer/fall 2023.

When sufficient grant funding is available, Part Two and Three would commence. **Part Two** would complete the remaining main alignment work on Voght from the Hospital entrance to Belshaw. **Part Three** would be to add the roundabouts. Information on Voght Street Plans and news on other road works can be found on the City's website: [MERRITT.CA/ROADS](https://merritt.ca/roads).

# Finances



## PROPERTY TAXES

By May 15 of every year, City Council must determine taxation rates for the year. While property taxes are typically based on property values, the law states that the City can only tax what is needed for the year. So while property values increased 13% this year, tax rates are set based on actual operating costs and required capital expenditures. After considering the City's position and the needs of the community, City Council has voted in favour of a 4.2% tax increase on residential properties, which is well below the annual inflation rate.

## BUDGET

The City recently completed the 2023-2027 *Financial Plan*, providing a roadmap of probable costs and incomes for the next 5 years. As needs change, modifications to this plan may be necessary.

Driven by recovery funding support, more than half (55%) of the City's anticipated revenue in 2023 comes from provincial or federal grants, while only about 29% comes from taxation. (SEE CHARTS ABOVE)

Of the total taxes collected, about 37% goes to other governing bodies: 23% goes to the Province for schools, 4% to

the hospital, 1% to transit, and the remaining 8% to the TNRD, which covers the library, Eco-Depot, and other services.

Municipal operating expenses include about 25% for the RCMP and Fire Rescue, 19% for water, sewer, and garbage, 15% for the arena, pool and parks, 15% for roads, 5% for flood recovery, and 6% for development. Capital expenditures, such as transportation infrastructure, are estimated at \$33.6 million for 2023. As is required by Local Government legislation, the City establishes a balanced budget for the year. Learn more. Visit the City's website: [MERRITT.CA/BUDGET](https://merritt.ca/budget).

# Flood Recovery



The flood in November 2021 devastated much of the city's infrastructure and private property totaling \$150 million in damage. Recovery will be a long-term process. While the City has repaired roads and parks, as well as shored up the dykes and bridges, the Voght Street Middlesboro Bridge still needs to be replaced. Funding for repair of the bridge is on the horizon, but project completion is not anticipated until the end of 2024. See status of projects and funding received at [MERRITT.CA/FLOOD](https://merritt.ca/flood).

## HOUSING

There were about 600 private properties affected by the flood. With insurance proceeds or Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA), the majority of these homeowners were able to repair or replace their domiciles. A year later, about 100 households remained unlivable. In late 2022, the City was able to apply some of its provincial funding for housing (\$24.2 million from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs) to the new *Transitional Evacuee Manufactured Home Program*, providing below-market

rate rentals for flood-affected residents. Additional housing programs will be in development. [MERRITT.CA/HOUSING](https://merritt.ca/housing)

## FLOOD MITIGATION

Prevention is key. The provincial and the federal governments recognize that more must be done to protect our citizens in the midst of global climate change and the devastating effects of more volatile weather. In building future infrastructure, we must take this new reality into consideration.

While the City has implemented temporary dyking measures, more must be done. The City created a \$165 million flood mitigation plan to protect the entire City from future extreme flood risk from both the Nicola and Coldwater rivers. At present, the City has not secured a firm funding commitment for this essential project.

However, the Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness approved a \$2 million investment for a dyke protecting the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Learn more about Flood Recovery at [MERRITT.CA/FLOOD](https://merritt.ca/flood).



## CURBSIDE Recycle Bins

Not everything that is recyclable can go into the City's road-side recycle bins. For instance, while glass and flexible plastics are recyclable at the TNRD's Lower Nicola Eco-Depot, these items CANNOT go into the curbside bin. When they are placed in the bin, they contaminate the entire lot of recyclable materials, which then must be treated as trash and sent to the landfill. Learn what can and cannot go in the curbside bin. Download an information sheet to attach to your kitchen waste to help guide your future recycling efforts.



[MERRITT.CA/RECYCLING](https://merritt.ca/recycling)

## Freshet, Flood Risks, Weather Alerts and more

Notifications and alerts, as well as resource links and more, are posted at [MERRITT.CA/NOTICES](https://merritt.ca/notices).

## Voyent Alert!

Register to receive information regarding important events or emergencies impacting the City of Merritt.

[MERRITT.CA/VOYENTALERT](https://merritt.ca/voentalert).

## Be Evacuation Prepared

Be prepared. Register now with Evacuee and Registration Assistance (ERA) before you have to deal with the stress of a real emergency. If you have a

BC Services Card and would like to register in preparation for a possible future evacuation, you can now self-register.

[ERA-EVACUEES.EMBC.GOV.BC.CA](https://era-evacuees.embc.gov.bc.ca)

## Emergency Support Services

Nicola Valley ESS recruits year-round for volunteers to help those in need during an emergency. ESS provides temporary services including food, clothing, and shelter to preserve the emotional and physical well-being of individuals and families displaced by an emergency, whether they are residents or host evacuees from an outside community. [MERRITT.CA/ESS](https://merritt.ca/ess)



## SURVEY: Extended Hours/Compressed Week

In November 2022, the City implemented a compressed 4-day work week with extended hours, 8:00 am to 5:45 pm, delivering the same weekly work hours. If you've accessed City Hall services during the last six months, we want to hear from you.

[MERRITT.CA/HOURS-SURVEY](https://merritt.ca/hours-survey)