



Over 100 parking stalls will be added this year on hospital grounds

“Everyone agrees our hospital needs more parking. It’s a big concern for neighbours, visitors and staff,” says Geoff Roberts, Fraser Health’s Director of Parking, Access and Commuter Services. “So during Royal Columbian’s redevelopment, as we add more beds, we’re adding more parking.”

Phase One includes construction of a new multi-level underground parkade that opens in 2019 below the new mental health centre being built between Keary and Allen Streets. “But, there’s a catch,” says Geoff.

“In the interim, we first have to create at least 300 temporary parking stalls. At established sites where space to expand is limited, construction often has a domino effect. It turns out the best place to build our new multi-level underground parkade is where our 300-stall surface parking lot sits today. This means, to build our new parkade, we first have to close an existing lot, and before we can do that, we need to add at least 300 stalls somewhere else to maintain our parking supply. We’ve decided on two solutions — one for patients and visitors, and the other for employees. Both are only temporary.”

Starting in April, the hospital’s greenspace along East Columbia will be temporarily converted to visitor parking, as will areas near the Main Entrance. This added parking — over 100 stalls — is intended for patients, visitors, some doctors and some evening and night staff.

“It’s unfortunate to see trees disappear, even if it’s just for a few years,” notes Geoff. “But this space is needed for visitor and patient parking while we build the new parkade and more beds for mental health patients.”

Parking cont’d on page 2



Grass, shrubs and over 40 trees will be removed

“We know trees mean a lot to people and to our planet,” says Barry Pearce, Chief Project Officer for the hospital’s redevelopment. “But the hard truth is with limited space to expand and not enough parking, the greenspace at the corner of East Columbia has to be repurposed while the hospital is under construction.”

About 40 trees and most grass and shrubs will be removed over three or four months, during the construction of the temporary parking lot for visitors. The trees range in size, health and species, from smaller maples and cherries, to larger pines and a Douglas Fir.

Most of the wood will be taken by a Lower Mainland wood purveyor for art and furniture. “We wanted to make sure when we cut trees, they were put to good use,” notes Barry. “We also plan to have some trees returned as benches so they can continue to be part of the hospital’s legacy.”

About 25 trees will stay, including ten trees along Sherbrooke Street, at least until the Sherbrooke Centre is demolished at the end of Phase One.

The corner of East Columbia will eventually include some landscaping once the entire redevelopment project is complete.

“We are committed to the environment and for every large tree felled, we’ll plant two on hospital grounds or public lands to align with New Westminster’s tree bylaw,” adds Barry. “This will likely be once we’ve finished the entire redevelopment, when trees won’t be disrupted by further construction.”

Trees cont’d on page 2



TEMPORARY PARKING

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“For employees, we’re temporarily leasing a lot in the vicinity” says Geoff. “Since there’s not enough space on hospital grounds to accommodate all our employees who currently park in the Keary Street lot which we’re closing, we had to look off-site. We evaluated nearby lots for distance, access, safety and cost — the things that matter most to our employees. But we found local parkades charged up to triple what staff pay now and we wanted to maintain employee rates. So we’re considering a lot near Braid Skytrain.”

A free shuttle will drive employees between this 500-stall parking lot and the hospital. “A similar shuttle at Surrey Memorial is well-used,” Geoff adds. “We hope Royal Columbian employees will realize the advantages of this new parking option — good rates, close to Skytrain, and lots of spaces to park. It’s a better option than employees parking on residential streets.”

Later this year, employees who park at the Keary Street lot now will transition to this new lot once the Keary surface lot closes for construction of the new mental health building and underground parkade. This employee temporary lot will be used by redevelopment construction crews too, and until the 2019/2020 opening of the new underground parkade (which we hope to fast-track to 2018).

Once the new underground parkade opens, visitors and employees can park there. The temporary visitor parking lot along East Columbia Street will then be repurposed for future redevelopment, and the temporary employee lot will also close.

A second underground parkade is proposed for Phase Two, below the new Acute Care Tower.

Latest News

Bird Design-Build Construction, EllisDon Corporation and PCL Constructors Westcoast were shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the competitive selection process to design and build our new Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre and our Energy Centre.

Targa Contracting and CitiWest Consulting have been selected to build the temporary visitor and employee parking lots.



TREE REMOVAL

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“Although we’re losing a greenspace in the short-term, we’re considering how to create a better greenscape in the long-term,” says Barry. “We’re collaborating with the City of New Westminster on urban design guidelines for the hospital that consider usable outdoor spaces, pathways, and streetscapes. This is all consistent with the green design principles we already use for new buildings. The input from neighbours at November’s forums was also really helpful.”

Green buildings have been the construction standard at Fraser Health since 2008. The new Mental Health and Substance Use Wellness Centre, the Energy Centre and the new underground parkade will all be designed to be LEED Gold facilities (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) which is the Canadian standard in green building design.

Construction partners will be expected to adhere to the BC Wood First Act which promotes wood as a building material of choice. Previous LEED facilities built at Fraser Health have optimized the use of wood to create inspiring spaces that promote good health, with some stunning results — like the lobby in Surrey Memorial’s Critical Care Tower.

“We hope our new mental health facility will showcase the beauty of trees inside and out,” ends Barry. “Our goal is to create a welcoming, therapeutic space that helps our patients on their road to recovery. Whether it’s new trees or landscaping we’ll plant outside, or benches we’ll add from the trees we cut, or timber used from local forests, we know trees will play an important part in our hospital’s future.”

To learn more visit fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbianParking.

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To sign up for redevelopment updates and construction notices or to learn more about this project visit www.fraserhealth.ca/royalcolumbian.

Send any questions to feedback@fraserhealth.ca.

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