

## The 'Market Park' Project April / May 2022 FINAL

To look at it now, you may not think much about the approximately one-hectare parcel of land that is adjacent to the railway tracks, located between the Chamber of Commerce and Pealow's Independent Grocery store. Locals know this land as the space where the outdoor Farmers' Market takes place starting in April through September. This particular piece of land has taken on many roles throughout Creston's history – it was a part of Crestbrook Forest Industries Ltd. sawmill, as well as home to Creston Building Supplies Ltd., followed by Beaver Lumber and Home Hardware. In 2009, Home Hardware relocated, leaving a vacant brownfield site behind, and in 2013, Town Council and staff started discussions about uses for this land that is centrally located in our downtown core. The concept of *Market Park* started to take shape, and continues to be a part of Council's community vision.

The initial conceptual design for Market Park was prepared in 2014 by Tom Dishlevoy Architects and Alison Mewett, landscape architect. The mission of Market Park is to create a venue that emphasizes Creston's history, landscape and beauty by creating a public green space, providing a permanent home for the Creston Valley Farmers' Market and celebrating the heritage and culture of the Yaqan Nukiy people, all in a parklike setting. It will be a central gathering place in the heart of our downtown, where people will be able to stop, linger, and explore the Park and the amenities it has to offer. The Town of Creston's 2017 Official Community Plan (OCP) features Market Park as a foundational cornerstone of the community's vision – it is mentioned 43 times in our OCP! We envision that this multi-purpose acccommunity hub 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!

In 2017, we estimated that the total project cost for Market Park would be approximately \$3.7 million, and that the project can be completed in phases. The Town of Creston has consistently applied for grants for this project over the years as it is primarily grant-dependent – that is, we would

not be able to proceed without receipt of significant grant funding. This year, we have been successful in obtaining partial funding for this project and are so excited to break ground this spring! To learn more about the detailed design, conceptual site plan for Market Park and how you can get involved, visit our Let's Talk Creston website – [letstalk.creston.ca/market-park](http://letstalk.creston.ca/market-park). Stay tuned for further updates on this thrilling project!

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