

Natural Areas, Parks & Trails Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Mandate

The mandate of the Natural Areas, Parks & Trails Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations, advice and information to Saanich Council and staff on matters that relate to the purpose of the committee and on any matters which are referred to the committee by Saanich Council or staff.

Purpose

The purpose of the Natural Areas, Parks & Trails Advisory Committee is to:

- Advise Saanich Council and staff on:
 - urban forestry matters
 - policies on parks, trails and natural areas, including services, facilities and specific community interests.
- Provide a community perspective on services, programs, events and capital projects related to urban forestry, natural areas, parks, trails, facilities and related community programs.
- Foster public awareness, recognition and support for a healthy and sustainable natural environment and parks, trails and facilities.

Meetings

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established annually at the first meeting of the year. No meetings are held during the summer and winter breaks (July, August and December). Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. The meeting rules and procedures will be in accordance with the Council Procedure Bylaw. Quorum of the Committee is a majority of its appointed voting members, including the Chair.

Membership

To the extent possible, Advisory Committees will have a diverse membership with respect to gender, age, and cultural-ethnic background.

The Committee will consist of nine (9) members qualified in the discipline relevant to the committee mandate or with a perspective necessary for fulsome consideration of the associated topic, including:

- A member of Council to serve as Chair, appointed by the Mayor;
- Eight (8) community representatives appointed by the Council including, where possible, one (1) youth voting member described as 16-24 years of age; and
- Where possible, at least one (1) member who is an Indigenous person.

Members may serve a maximum of seven years on an Advisory Committee, consisting of a one-year term followed by a potential for three, two-year terms. Members who wish to be re-appointed after the completion of a term must re-apply and provide the application and their resume for Council's consideration.

School District Nos. 61 and 63 may each assign a trustee to the Committee as a non-voting liaison.

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Staff Support

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is the primary contact and will provide the required professional support. Meeting preparation, agendas and minutes of meetings of the Committee will be provided by the Legislative Services Division.