

**AGENDA - REVISED**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2**  
**Thursday, May 2, 2019, from 7:00 p.m.**

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1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
  - March 28, 2019
2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**
3. **PUBLIC WASHROOM STRATEGY**
  - Overview from Staff
4. **GORE PEACE MEMORIAL PARK – UPDATE**
  - Update from Manager Park Planning & Development
5. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)
  - Presentation from the Senior Manager of Recreation
6. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)
  - Presentation from the Senior Manager of Parks
7. **DIVISION UPDATE, COMMUNITY SERVICES** (attachment)
  - Presentation from the Manager of Community Services
8. **2019 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES – PLANNING SESSION**
  - Facilitated committee discussion
9. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

\* Adjournment \*

**Next Meeting: May 23, 2019**  
In order to ensure a quorum, please call Jeff Keays at 475-5494 ext. 3430 or  
jeff.keays@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.

**Go Green!**

**Members are encouraged to bring their own mug to the meeting.**

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room #2  
**March 28, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair: Councillor Taylor

Members: Pamela Carroll; Daryl Dagneault; Lyndsay Edgar; Peter Haddon; Wyatt Matthews and Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation); Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks; Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development; and Jeff Keays, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Ted Austin; Elise Cote

Guests: Dr. David Atwell, Greater Victoria Velodrome Association; John Erington, Greater Victoria Velodrome Association; and Matt Jeffries, Executive Director, Cycling Canada

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by L. Edgar and Seconded by S. Yao: "That the minutes of the Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 8, 2019 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**THE HUB: A PROPOSAL FOR A MULTIPLEX RECREATION CENTRE IN SAANICH**

David Atwell, on behalf of the Greater Victoria Velodrome Association (GVVA), provided the committee with an overview of The Hub: A Proposal for a Multiplex Recreation Facility in the Centre of Saanich. The following was highlighted:

- We are gathering on unceded territories of the Esquimalt, Songhees and WSÁNEĆ peoples.
- It is critical to ensure that the facility and programming promotes diversity, dialogue and understanding between peoples. Facilities and programming will provide equal access to all and to promote community, mental and physical reconciliation, health and wellbeing.
- At the august 2017 GVVA passed the following resolutions:
  - The GVVA Board supports the development of an indoor velodrome for Victoria.
  - The GVVA Board supports the development of an indoor velodrome for Victoria that is centrally located to promote maximum community participation.
  - The GVVA Board supports the development of a community survey to gauge support for various options with respect to the development of an indoor velodrome in Victoria.

- The current track is an outdoor facility located in Colwood, it is a legacy from the 1994 Commonwealth Games.
- A new year-round facility is desirable; however, as single purpose facility is a hard sell.
- There are currently only three (3) indoor velodromes in Canada.
- Only one track in Canada - located in Milton, Ontario - is compliant with the Union Cycliste Internationale completion standards. Including Milton, there are only three (3) in North America.
- Cycling Canada supports the west-coast base for training.
- Building a facility that is not just a velodrome, but rather a public space that is engaging, open to the community and will result in an asset that enhances community health and wellness.
- The community needs identified through the Hub planning process include (but are not limited to):
  - Hotel spaces,
  - Commercial space,
  - Affordable housing,
  - Tourism infrastructure,
  - High performance sport facilities,
  - Indoor velodrome and courts,
  - Convention, exhibition and conference infrastructure.
- The core infrastructure that would support the facility includes a hotel, commercial spaces and a residential building.
- Additional features and service would include a themed multi-use recreation centre, a high-performance sports facility for cycling (and other sports)
- Court facilities (tennis, basketball, and pickle ball), daycare, health services and public transit facilities.
- The Canadian Sport Institute, the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, the National Mountain Biking Training Centre and Triathlon Canada are either in need of additional spaces or facilities for training and programming.
- Anchor partners would include commercial development, an affiliated hotel and affordable housing.
- The facility would be a hub for sports tourism beyond cycling, and would also be home to concert, exhibitions and convention facilities.
- The Hub would also integrate community arts and culture and facilitate active transportation.
- Key strategic drivers with regard to the location of any facility are: accessibility, enhancements to currently underserved neighbourhoods, fit with the Official Community Plan and Local Area Plans, and encouragement of economic development.
- Potential development sites include (but not limited to):
  - Tillicum Mall
  - University Heights
  - The Archery Range
  - Blenkinsop and McKenzie area
  - Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
  - UVic
- No conclusion has been reached with regard to location. There are site specific requirements include lot-size and accessibility.
- Langford is interested, but locating in the west-shore runs counter to the notion of

- centralization. Travel would be a barrier, particularly youth.
- The facility must recognize the land-use, environment and housing needs of the community, while at same time provide value-added and complimentary community amenities.
  - The next steps for the proposal are seeking demonstrated support from Saanich, including the appropriate advisory committees, a community survey, a feasibility study, the development of a not-for-profit society and securing initial funding.
  - Following the initial steps the Hub would look to source equity partners, secure funding from all three levels of government, acquire land and proceed with the formal planning and development process.
  - Construction completion is estimated to be 5 – 8 years.
  - The cost is estimated to be between \$90-120 million, with the velodrome/rec-centre facility accounting for approximately \$15 – 20 million.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- There are no plans for new recreation facilities at this time.
- The Council approved Strategic Facilities Master Plan identifies the Public Works Yard and Fire Station 2 as the priorities.
- The Recreation Master Plan identifies the need of an additional dry-floor programming area as well as a feasibility study for another ice-pad.
- The utilization rates for the Milton, Ontario facility are in the report.
- There are about 7000 cyclists in various leagues and tours across Canada
- Velodrome-cycling as a sport is growing worldwide, and is considered the entry-point for numerous cycling related disciplines.
- There will be an open-house at the outdoor track on April 12, 2019.
- The experience of the Milton facility is continued growth, with over 9000 registered users from the immediate area (Milton has a population of approximately 110,000 people).
- It is intended that the facility would serve as community hub, with all the associated community amenities.
- Integrating the amenities, hotel, and conference space help to achieve an economy of scale and ongoing revenue.
- The District's facilities are nearing capacity; however, the community is most interested in seeing new community centre type facilities in their communities and neighbourhoods.
- There is a critical need for additional arena space.
- There does not appear to be demonstrable need for additional recreation facilities.
- Saanich would be a partner, not an owner.
- The development was not predicated, nor is it dependent on funding from Saanich.
- The Hub would not be a capital project for Saanich.
- Limited capacity exists at UVic and PISE; however, PISE is relatively inaccessible due to the location.
- Lending support to the project would be easier if there were an official municipal study that demonstrated the need for such a facility.
- A more developed and detailed proposal would assist the committee in making an informed recommendation.
- A short-list, or preferred location for the facility needs to be determined in order to make an informed decision.

- There is an opportunity to work with BC Transit to explore the possibility of integrating a transit exchange.
- The community in the immediate vicinity of Uptown has demonstrated some concerns with the potential impact of a proposed transit exchange in the area.
- What are the priorities of the Uptown neighbourhood, as well as those throughout the District? Is this what they want?

## MOTION

**Moved by D. Dagneault and Seconded by L. Edgar: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the proposed Multiplex-Velodrome in principle and recognize that the proposal, as presented, supports the need for additional recreation facilities and programs to support active transportation, community health and recreation.**

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- There are supportable aspects of the plan; however, those individual supportable components are conflated in this context.

## AMENDMENT

**Moved by P. Haddon and Seconded by D. Dagneault: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee support the proposed Velodrome in principle.”**

Committee discussion resumed, the following was highlighted:

- If the multiplex is removed it takes away the value to the community.
- The project should be consider as a singular entity, significant value is lost if considered independent of the multiplex.
- The proposed amendment is to provide clarity with regard to support.

**The Amendment was then Put and DEFEATED  
With Members Carroll, Dagneault, Edgar, Haddon and Matthews OPPOSED**

Committee discussion resumed, the following was highlighted:

- There is considerable ambiguity with regard to who will fund the facility.
- Numerous unknowns make it difficult to support.

**The Motion was then PUT and Defeated  
With Councillor Taylor and Members Carroll, Haddon, Matthews OPPOSED**

## BIKE PARKS BEST PRACTICES – UPDATE

Gary Darrah, Manager, Park Planning and Development provided the committee with an update on the best practices for bike parks as well as a status update on McMinn Park. The following was noted:

- Ongoing, unsanctioned jump building in Haro Woods resulted in staff investigating the benefits of purpose built facilities.
- Plans for a purpose built facility at McMinn Park are in the final design phase.
- On-site meeting with the builder today (March 28).
- The next step is to finalize design drawings and begin logistics planning.

- Construction will begin in May.
- Ride testing and final shaping and landscaping will be completed before the park is opened to the public – target is late June.
- Staff have initiated the preliminary steps for the proposed youth bike skills park.
- Land negotiations, and subsequent Council endorsement are the immediate next steps.
- There will be public engagement with the community in the planning and design stages.
- Construction is targeted for 2020.

Committee discussion ensued, the following was highlighted:

- This is Phase 2 of the McMinn plan.
- Acquisition, or the leasing of land is a Council process.
- McMinn has its approvals and funding in place.
- A berm will be utilized to delineate spaces for cyclists and other park users such as dog walkers.
- Saanich carries significant blanket insurance for facilities like this.

#### **L.I.F.E REVIEW UPDATE**

- Review initiated in fall of 2018
- Objective is to evaluate current service with the potential of making future recommendations and changes where feasible.
- Final report will be brought to Council for consideration as part of the 2020 Financial Plan process.

#### **DIVISION UPDATE RECREATION**

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the March Parks Division Update report dated, March 20, 2019.

#### **DIVISION UPDATE PARKS**

The Senior Manager – Parks provided an overview of the March Parks Division Update report dated, February 28, 2019.

#### **DIVISION UPDATE COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the February and March Community Services Division Update reports dated, February 28, and March 28, 2019 respectively.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The committee discussed potential topics for inclusion on future agendas

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2019.

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Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Secretary



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

**Report To:** Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

**From:** Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager - Recreation

**Date:** 4/16/2018

**Subject:** April 2019 Monthly Report

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of the previous month's Recreation Division activities.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Cedar Hill Recreation Centre**

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre has implemented Adult Social Tournaments for those registered in the adult tennis programs. The purpose of these events is to give beginner to intermediate players a chance to play matches with each other in a fun and relaxed environment where there is no emphasis placed on rankings or results. The social aspect of the events allows participants to meet new players and form bonds over the common interest of tennis. Capstone events such as these give lesson participants something special to look forward to and have received excellent feedback. There are no additional costs to participate.

On Saturday April 6, Cedar Hill Recreation Centre held one of 756 events across 92 countries that were registered with the International Table Tennis Federation to celebrate World Table Tennis Day. This was a free, all ages and abilities event that saw 40-50 members of the public come to play and experience what table tennis has to offer. Tat Ma, a Saanich Volunteer, along with Program Assistant Grace Thomas, did an excellent job organizing the event and ensuring that everyone had an awesome time. There was matchplay, instruction and a skills test. Tat even set-up his ping-pong ball machine for people to try!

#### **Gordon Head Recreation Centre**

**Spring Break Programming:** Gordon Head Middle school was bustling with children for the Spring Break Camps. A variety of camps including cooking, basketball, soccer, badminton, amazing race and spring break camp ran full with over one hundred children attending camps each week. The enthusiastic, responsible and well trained staff as well as sunshine and warm weather ensured a fun filled week for campers.

**Weight room and fitness:** Recreation Services regularly supports UVIC, Camosun College and high school students needing volunteer hours to meet course requirements. Ben, a current Aquatics Team Leader, recently volunteered 100 hours in fitness to complete his student requirements in the Recreation Leadership Program at Camosun College. One project he recently completed was compiling information from Diabetes Canada to present to patrons during their next monthly potluck. Another student, Alex, from Reynolds Highschool is completing 80 hours and one task is doing research on demonstration products and posting information for patron feedback on the potential products. These are great opportunities to expose students to the real workings behind the scenes to implement recreation delivery.

**Reception:** On April 3, our first day of summer registration, Gordon Head reached a record high for in-person and phone-in registrations. We accounted for more than **\$30,000** worth of transactions! This was unbelievable when we account for the slow start because our phone lines were down throughout the Municipality.

### **G.R. Pearkes Recreation Centre**

Our Ice Resurfacers are back in operation, and we are in the midst of planning for putting out an RFP for a replacement purchase. We are anxiously awaiting our fitness change-room shower area renovation. Kingsview Construction is working hard to complete our shower renovation by the planned opening date of April 30, 2019. Our fieldhouse has been busy with several shows, and our annual SMHA Banquet. The team is also busy preparing for our annual Good Friday concert.

Additionally, we are undergoing a small program team realignment. The opportunity for a realignment comes from multiple factors:

- Current program gap with the movement of the part-time Programmer II position to SCP
- Goal of shifting all programs under one position/leadership (Programmer II) for all of GR Pearkes
- Reduced registration in two areas (Preschool Daytime program and Adult/Fitness)

We are actively recruiting for a new Programmer 1, who will oversee the Fitness and School Aged programs. This will allow for a much more focused effort to shift the curves we have seen in these areas.

### **Saanich Commonwealth Place**

**Registration and Programming:** It has been a busy time around Saanich Commonwealth Place with Spring Break Camps wrapping up, the Kiddie Capers Preschool registration filling up on registration day and summer registration on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Registration day got off to a bit of a rocky start with our phone lines down across the municipality for the first 2 hours but we prevailed with a successful few days, filling up nearly every summer camp in every age group with waitlists.

**Aquatics and High Performance:** Saanich Commonwealth athletes have been attending some recent competitions and showing very well. 19 year old Hanna Henry placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the 2019 Clermont CAMTRI Sprint Triathlon American Cup as well as 2 of our synchronized swimmers placed 4<sup>th</sup> at the Canada Winter Games.

Alison Sheehan – aquatic programmer was awarded a \$400 ParticipACTION Community Better Grant for her Mermaid Afternoon Swim.

**Other:** We held a High Performance Press Conference on April 8<sup>th</sup> to announce the Province \$100,000 funding towards the Commonwealth Pool Operating Trust Fund. The press release can be found at <https://www.saanichnews.com/news/province-dips-into-saanichs-commonwealth-pool-with-olympic-funding/>.

Masters swim meet was held with 225 swimmers competing in this annual event.

We recently experienced an issue with 1 of our 2 boilers and are currently operating on 1 boiler. Work is underway on a best approach for future replacement with the boiler replacement project happening over the next while.

The resource request was approved and we will be proceeding with ducts being cleaned throughout the building to prepare for the boiler upgrade project.

Prepared by Kelli-Ann Armstrong Senior Manager, Recreation

Submitted by   
Cris Caravaca for Kelli-Ann Armstrong

Approved by:   
Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation

# THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

**REPORT TO:** Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

**DATE:** May 2, 2019

**FROM:** Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

**SUBJECT:** **Parks Division Update – April, 2019**

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The following update is provided for the Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee:

## **Maintenance – EI-2**

Maintenance is continuing to provide core services and seasonal staff have returned to help get parks ready for spring and summer activities.

Year-end soccer tournaments and extra play are being requested and permitted as required. Staff are preparing to start renovating those soccer fields not in use for tournaments in order to get a healthy stand of grass ready for the September start of soccer season.

Baseball season is upon us and the maintenance team has been working to get fields ready for play for the season. Maintenance activities such as aerating, mowing, topdressing, over-seeding and infield leveling are some of the activities we are continuing to do to ensure safe play.

The irrigation section has been completing some small installations and changes to existing systems. Systems charging has begun and programming of systems will start as required.

The Parks refuse truck and staff continue to deal with high volumes of garbage along with illegal dumping in parks. Homeless camp clean ups are increasing and they are dealt with as they are reported according to the Bylaw.

The Parks mechanic shop is busy preparing the turf crew equipment to start the 2019 season. Equipment tenders are going out for replacements of broken and worn out equipment.

## **Construction\* – EI-3-3**

The Construction Section has been working on the following major projects:

- 1 Rosedale Park Playground Project** – Playground, pathways and park furniture have been completed as well as tree planting and general landscaping. The crew is installing the flagstone plaza and working on an arbor behind the playground.
- 2 Lambrick Accessibility Project** – All pathways and hardscape elements have been completed. General landscaping work around the new pathway, new benches and additional drainage has also been completed. Lines and crosswalk markings were repainted recently and installation of the Tactile Walking Surface Indicator tiles (a specific accessibility product) has started with two crosswalks completed. Collapsible bollards will also be installed instead of concrete barriers.

- 3 **Parks ID Signage** – New Parks ID signs were installed in several Saanich parks. The project will continue through the spring. To date 25 parks have been completed.
- 4 **Quadrant 3 (north east) Trail Resurfacing Program** – has commenced and will be continuing in the next month.
- 5 **McMinn Park** – preparation work for the bike skills park is scheduled to begin in early May. Construction crew will be removing turf and topsoil and installing aggregate base for the future bike skills park to be installed by a contractor.
- 6 **Rudd Park** – repaving of large sections of pathways in the park is scheduled for completion in May.

\* More detailed information about the above projects are in the Projects, Planning and Design section of the update.

### **Horticulture – EI-2**

Turf crews are hard at work getting on top of the fast growing grass in parks, facilities and streetscapes. Spring bulbs are up and brightening the view at many sites throughout the municipality. Horticulture staff are busy keeping shrub and flower beds free of fast growing spring weeds.

### **Urban Forestry – EI-1-3**

Urban Forestry staff have had an extremely 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year. We have been working on reviewing design circulations for Engineering on the following projects: Shelbourne Street, CRD residual solids line and pump stations, Douglas St Southbound bus lanes, Gorge Road storm drain, and several other underground projects. This work is important in order to try to protect trees during construction, and to come up with new tree planting locations during the landscape design.

Requests For Service (RFS) volume has continued to be above average since the February storms. Urban Forestry staff continues to prioritize hazard calls ahead of general pruning calls. Even with running 3 crews (one crew consists of two arborists), there's a 6-8 week backlog of work to attend to.

### **Natural Areas – EI-1-5**

The Secret Pond at Outerbridge Park is much more secret with a significant planting project along its northern boundary. A dozen or so trees including Douglas firs, Saskatoon berry, Western red cedars, and Spruce, and several dozen shrubs including: Red flowering currant, Nootka rose, Sword fern, Osa berry, Ocean spray, Salmonberry, Red osier dogwood, Tall Oregon grape, and Honeysuckle were planted at the trail entrance into the Secret Pond. A cedar split rail fence was also added.



Crews were busy on the Lesser Celandine and Shiny geranium invasive species programs over the past weeks. The provincial contractor spent the week leading into the Easter long weekend treating Shiny geranium, which is currently only located in Saanich. Parks received a few email/calls concerned about the use of pesticides in Gorge Park. The plants are spot sprayed directly, with little to no overspray and at a low active ingredient of herbicide. If left untreated, Shiny geranium spreads to create a monoculture ground cover and chokes out native plants. Residents in Cordova Bay that

are affected by Shiny geranium were very happy to see the crews treating the plant.

The Pulling Together volunteers continue to be active in many parks and we continue to support them with pile pick-ups, mulching and invasive removal. Community groups and schools are continuing to fill our calendar with requests to volunteer with Saanich Parks. The annual Bowker Creek event with the Friends of Cedar Hill Park and Pulling Together volunteers took place on April 13<sup>th</sup>. We may have someone stepping up to be a Lead Steward at Haro Woods which will be a positive step towards the long term management of that wonderful forest in Cadboro Bay.

Parks staff, with help from Friends of Cedar Hill, Golf course staff, and Pulling Together volunteers, worked with two school groups from Maria Montessori Academy to plant ~100 trees and shrubs. This restoration area in Cedar Hill Park, under a beautiful mature Garry Oak tree, has been an ongoing collaborative effort by all groups, from removing the blackberry, mulching, digging roots, and now finally planting.



Another successful tree planting season is in the books with ~600 trees planted from October 2018 to April 2019. The irrigation team is busy getting everything running for the upcoming dry season. It was a dry winter this year so we are starting the watering program early this year. One of the boulevard watering trucks is already hooked up and has been busy watering some of the drier sites. We will be loading the other two water tanks up over the next week and will soon have two full-time boulevard tree water schedules running and the natural areas restoration water truck will be going full time as well.



The parking lot at the Capital City Allotment Gardens received a new cedar split rail fence to highlight, and protect, the new planting area.

A Small Tree Maintenance (STM) crew is actively mulching and removing stakes from boulevard and park trees that have been planted over the past five years. Deer damage continues to be a significant issue so we are caging many of our newly planted trees, especially in the Gordon Head area.

One new Wood Duck box was installed at the Panama Hill Park pond and one box was replaced at Bow Pond. The Wood Duck box was a hit at the Arbutus Middle School “Human Library” where two staff attended to enlighten interested students about the work we do in Parks Natural Areas. Arbutus Middle Global Action teacher and students continue their great work removing invasive plant species at Haro Woods.

## Projects, Planning and Design

**Washroom Strategy** – Staff have initiated a Public Washroom Strategy to determine how best to provide washroom facilities to enhance service levels and make visits to parks and trails more convenient. A series of information boards summarizing the draft

strategy have been developed and will be making the rounds of several public facilities in order to receive public feedback. The boards outline the criteria that was used to identify where facilities are needed, the type of facility proposed and the draft timeline for implementation. Displays will be set up from the end of April to the end of May. Locations will include Saanich Recreation Centres, Municipal Hall, Less Passmore Center and local libraries. Residents will be directed to the Saanich website where they can complete a short survey. For those who are unable to view the boards at these locations they will also be posted on our website along with the survey. A variety of media promotion will be used to encourage participation.

**Cedar Hill Park Management Plan** – Staff continue to work on Phase 2 of the project and are in the process of planning for an Open House for Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 2 to 5 pm at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. At this event the greater community can review and comment on proposed action items and some options for suggested additional amenities in the park (ideas generated from the various public engagement activities and the Stakeholder Working Group).

**Cadboro-Gryo Park Tennis Courts** – Staff worked with the Cadboro Bay Community Association to determine that a combination of tennis and pickleball for the park is preferred. This modified design also helps stay clear of underground sanitary infrastructure. CRD Wastewater has been informed and have no issues with construction near their main sanitary force main.

**McMinn Park** – Detailed design and preparations for construction startup of the small bike skills facility are underway. This will be the first of its type in Saanich. Work continues to select a supplier for the pre-fabricated washroom building which will be located close to the playground. Bike skills area should be completed in time for summer. No firm date for the installation of the washroom structure has been identified.

**Reynolds Park Playground Replacement** – Parks received additional feedback on the proposed concept plan for the new play equipment at Reynolds. The public participation process for this project is now complete. Construction drawings are underway and the playground equipment will be purchased once the Capital budget has been approved. The project is still scheduled for construction late summer in order to accommodate the Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program which runs in the park from July to middle of August.

**Gore Park Enhancement** – This small park located at Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Road is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Parks is planning to undertake some enhancements to improve the space in honour of this milestone. A concept plan is being presented to the public for review at two pop up events in the park. The first is on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from noon to 3 p.m. The second will be on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from noon to 2 p.m. Staff will be on site to receive feedback and answer questions. Leading up to this event staff have had meetings with the local community association to discuss the project and receive early input. The project is scheduled for completion in advance of Remembrance Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Layritz Park** – Finishing touches to last year's parking lot project are coming together. Asphalt stamping & colouring is complete, benches and the refurbished interpretive sign have been installed. The Layritz Park sign (made from the large sequoia that came down on Wilkinson) and gate are nearing completion and should be installed in the coming weeks.

## **Community Development and Business Systems Section**

We are winding down with our sport user group annual meetings for the spring season. As part of those meetings, the clubs have the opportunity to request permission to conduct projects in parks. We have received several requests mostly to enhance existing infrastructure such as dugouts and are also in the process of reviewing Gorge Soccer's application to replace the artificial turf at Hampton Park.

We are excited to be planning the second year of Park Ambassadors in Mount Douglas Park with a spring meeting on May 1 at Outerbridge Park. We will have a check in meeting, and are having a guest Interpreter to provide some hands on training for our Park Ambassadors so they have more skills and confidence to engage with the public. Stay tuned for further expansion of the program to other parks.



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Report

**To:** Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee  
**From:** Cristina Caravaca, Community Services Manager  
**Date:** April 16, 2019  
**Subject:** Report on Community Services Section

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee receive this report as information.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an overview of the previous month's Parks and Recreation - Community Services activities.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Community Services Updates by Focus Area:**

##### **Older Adult Services:** Neighbours Engaging in Activities Together N.E.A.T.

Saanich Parks & Recreation is working to address older adult social isolation with a new program called NEAT! This grant-funded program, offered in partnership with Island Health, Oak Bay, Victoria, Sidney and Royal Oak Neighbourhood House is designed to build self-confidence, connection and provide a sense of belonging to participants. Many older adults live alone or face various barriers to participation, such as financial, transportation, physical, emotional and social challenges. With NEAT, these barriers are removed and participants are able to make sustainable social connections through a variety of experiences. Weekly activities can include anything from art to sports and everything in between. Participants are responsible for finding their own transportation but receive support from the group, as well as their local Parks & Recreation staff.

**Financial Access and Inclusion:** We are moving into the data interpretation phase of the Regional LIFE Review. We have seen and heard clustering messages around gratitude for the program, the importance of availability/usage, the desire for privacy surrounding intimate pieces of personal information and the tremendous positive effects on their overall well-being.

The Regional LIFE Review Research team will be meeting mid-April to ensure all gaps have been identified and provide "one last opportunity" of information/data gathering. The Review is scheduled to complete in June of 2019 with recommendations provided in a full report.

IPAL is currently in the last two weeks of its winter program, this is the first time we have offered the Inter-generational Physical Activity Leadership program in the months of Feb-April. Despite weather posing a few challenges, once again the opportunity for a diverse group of ages to come together and lead elementary school children on the playground during lunch recess in outdoor games has been hugely successful.

**Multicultural Services:** We hosted a Local Immigrant Partnership meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> discussing the immigration trends for Greater Victoria based on 2016 Census results. Sixty business and community members attended the session.

The Muslim Women and Girls program had a weight room session at Gordon Head. This was an opportunity to orient some of the women and teens on using the equipment and to give them introductory strength training exercises. We offered child-minding so moms could participate. There were twenty-six that attended and they have asked for a continuation so they can build on what they learned. This program is funded by a grant from the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS).

**Parks Programs:** Now that it's spring, our outdoor walking programs begin again on Thursday mornings. This free drop-in walking program draws between 20-35 walkers each week as they explore some of Saanich's best walking routes.

**Community Arts:** The "Women's Ceramics Circle: Creativity for Healing" program is wrapping up this month at the Arts Centre. Victoria Women's Transition House partnered with Saanich Parks and Recreation to support weekly sessions that fostered artistic engagement and skill in ceramics while promoting a client-centered approach to healing through the arts for women survivors of domestic violence and abuse. The program ran from September to April with funding from the BC Arts Council and the CRD Arts Development Fund. There will be a display of selected artworks in the Arts Centre in the last two weeks of April.

Conservation work is underway on "Ricochet" by Linda Stanbridge at Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre. Ricochet was Saanich's first piece of public art. Work is set to be completed by summer.

#### Exhibitions at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill

April 17 - May 5, 2019:

- Main Gallery: "Connections," Vancouver Island Surface Design Association
- Cafe Gallery: Saanich Artists May Studio Tours Preview, Catch a sneak peak at the work of over 30 Saanich artists taking part in this year's annual artist tours in May/June

April 4 - 29, 2019:

Saanich Municipal Hall

- Main Floor Window: Saanich Artists Studio Tours Preview
- Main Floor Gallery & Reception Wall: Wilson Tutube
- Second Floor Gallery & Administration Wall: Dina Mohamed Adel Rahoma

**Special Events:** The Saanich Cycling Festival celebrates 10 years and residents are encouraged to get active and explore Saanich by bike on Sunday, May 5.

The 2019 festival route includes six Celebration Stations along the Galloping Goose and Lochside Trails where participants can collect stamps on their festival map. Residents can start their journey at any of the celebration stations and make their way to the Saanich Hall for a chance to win a variety of great prizes and take part in a variety of free family activities from 11am - 3pm. The main celebration site is located at the Saanich Municipal Hall. The kids decorated bike ride starts at 1pm and families can choose either the 1.5 km or 2.2 km route. There will be a total of 20 different vendors participating as well as 4 food trucks supplying local food to hungry cyclists.

**Youth Services:** The 2019 Saanich Youth Awards are approaching and nomination packages are now live. Help us to recognize exceptional young people in our community by nominating a youth between the ages of 12-19 for one of seven categories. Awards ceremony will be held at the Cedar Hill Golf Course on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Registration for all Summer Camps opened April 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are seeing healthy registration numbers in all areas, including our new piloted Breakout Adventure Camps at the Flipside.

Upside Teen Centre's hosted the Gender Spectacular Caregiver Support Group in April as part of a bimonthly support group for families with gender diverse youth in their lives. Thanks to the ongoing support of TransCare BC, the 2019-2020 funding request for the caregiver support group was approved in March 2019.

The Backdoor Teen Centre, in partnership with Recreation Integration Victoria, have developed a free training workshop for young professionals and volunteers to better understand and develop skills for best practice when working with people with diverse abilities. The first workshop was held in April.

With an eye towards future collaborations and sharing of resources, Saanich Youth Services met with their counterparts at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre to compare notes, go over summer program options, and continue to build strong relations between our two groups.

Chris Filler, Youth Services Programmer presented to council on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year reports stemming from the Youth Development Strategy.

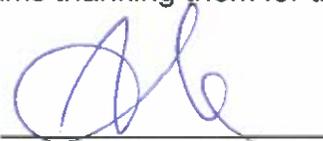
**Volunteer Services:** In honour of National Volunteer Week, Saanich Councilor-Ned Taylor has written a letter to volunteers enrolled in the Saanich programs thanking them for their support and energy.

Prepared by:



Cristina Caravaca, Manager, Community Services

Approved by:



Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation