

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, February 27, 2020, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM

*** Territorial Acknowledgement ***

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - January 23, 2019

2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

3. **TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW** (attachment)
 - For information

4. **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE** (attachment)
 - Presentation – Community Services Programmer

5. **CEDAR HILL PARK PLAN – FINAL DRAFT**
 - Presentation – Park Planner

6. **HORNER PARK RENEWAL PLAN – FINAL DRAFT**
 - Presentation – Park Planner

7. **DIVISION UPDATE, RECREATION** (attachment)

8. **DIVISION UPDATE, PARKS** (attachment)

9. **DIVISION UPDATE, COMMUNITY SERVICES** (attachment)

10. **GROUP PHOTO**
 - Optional with signed photo release

11. **ROUNDTABLE**

*** Adjournment ***

Next Meeting: April 2, 2020

In order to ensure a quorum, please call Tania Douglas at 475-5494 ext. 3505 or
tania.douglas@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 No. 2
January 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Ted Austin, Trevor Barry, Pamela Carroll, Dexter Owen, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director Parks & Recreation; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Graham Thomson, Manager, GR Pearkes Recreation Centre; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner Designer; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Lyndsay Edgar

Minutes

MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held November 28, 2019, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed new member Trevor Barry, and congratulated Dex Owen on officially becoming a voting member of the committee. He also noted that:

- More appointments are to be made in the next month and hopefully the committee will have full membership soon. Members are encouraged to spread the word about the upcoming appointments.
- Members are asked to complete a form from the Chair, which will help to steer the committee's activities for the year.
- It is hoped that each member will have a one-on-one coffee meeting with the Chair to share ideas and ask questions.
- The Terms of Reference have proposed changes and these will be going to Council for approval in the near future. Committee will be able to review these in an upcoming meeting.
- The work done by the committee in 2019 is something to be proud of and includes a recommendation to support inclusive services in recreation centres and also a potential food truck pilot project.

Roundtable introductions were then made and members shared their favourite parks with each other.

2020 MEETING DATES & ORIENTATION

Members discussed the available meeting room space for the year as presented in the January 13th memo from the Senior Committee Clerk. Committee consensus is to hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm, with the exception of the February meeting, which will be held on February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Members also received orientation information, and a brief overview was given by the Senior Committee Clerk.

FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Parks and Recreation spoke to the January 17, 2020 report regarding 2020-2021 proposed Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges, and replied to questions from committee members. The following was noted:

- There is an expectation for recreation to have a certain recovery rate in order to help offset taxes.
- Rates were set after a review of services and a comparison of fees and charges throughout the region was completed.
- The LIFE program is based on a person's ability to pay. As part of the review the minimum income level was adjusted to increase the number of individuals and families that can access the program.
- There will be a significant change with passes and the annual pass will no longer be available. The cancellation policy will need to be reviewed.
- Recreation facility users will see about an average of 2% increase in fees.
- Changes are proposed for golf course fees and charges as well. The course continues to be the most affordable in the region.
- Staff will look at possible administration fees in the future for registering programs and are working to ensure that people continue to have access to recreation. Users will not be paying a significant more to access the recreation centres.

Committee thanked the Director of Parks and Recreation for the information and expressed support for the recommendations in the report.

Motion: MOVED by D. Owen and Seconded by P. Carroll, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that Council endorse and adopt the proposed 2020-2021 Fees and Charges Schedules as described in the January 17, 2020 report from the Director of Parks and Recreation, and include the schedules in the 2020 Financial Planning discussions."

CARRIED

GEORGE TRIP BIKE PARK

The Senior Manager of Parks and the Park Planner Designer provided information about a potential youth park on the BC Hydro property on Lochside Drive. The following was noted:

- In 2015 the Youth Development Strategy was done and one of the items in the strategy was to explore looking at a youth park. At the time there were no appropriate land parcels available.
- In 2019 BC Hydro performed upgrades to their George Trip substation and these upgrades should last for 20+ years. There is about one acre of land at this substation that has been offered to Saanich for use. It sits off Lochside trail and is an optimal spot for a youth park.
- Staff met with the North Quadra Community Association (NQCA) Chair last fall to discuss ways of engaging the neighbourhood.
- Youth were engaged at workshops at Reynolds, Lambrick and Spectrum schools. A survey was also done, with the majority of participants being youth.
- Concerns raised from the public at a NQCA meeting in November included overnight campers/shelters, traffic, parking, noise, youth and vandalism. After discussing the issues with the attendees, actions are being developed to address concerns. For example, there will be no overnight parking in the Lochside parking lot, parking will be time limited, and a crosswalk will be installed from the trail to the park.

- Staff are working with the Purchasing department to find a design-build company who can build a proper and safe youth park, with a bicycle component.
- A public open house will be held to receive feedback. It is hoped that the park can be constructed in time for a fall opening.

Staff responded to questions from committee members as follows:

- The average age targeted for the youth park is between 13 – 19 years.
- A beginner course would likely be included in the project.
- No programming is planned at this time to teach people how to ride however the members in the biking community are very likely to come out to help. Saanich Recreation will partner with bike organizations in this regard.

Members expressed appreciation and support for the project and noted this is an ideal location for a youth park with biking components.

Motion: MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin, “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee supports in principle the proposed youth park in George Trip Park, and recommends that Council consider an additional funding request for this project through the 2020 budget process.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee is to advise Council and recommend policies on parks*, trails and recreation matters, including services, facilities and specific community interests.

Mandate

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee will, consistent with the purpose described above, undertake the following:

- Develop and recommend policies to Council and respond to Council requests for advice and information.
- Provide advice to Council on projects, policies or bylaws under consideration by staff or Council, and on additional topics of interest to committee members that fall within the subject area of the committee.
- Review and provide feedback on the Strategic Plan.
- Provide a community perspective on parks*, trails, facilities, services, and community programs.
- Foster public awareness, recognition and support for parks, trails, and facilities.

**Natural parks (P-4N zone) fall within the mandate of the Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee.*

Any initiatives proposed by the committee that has resource implications, including staff time, would have to be approved by Council.

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.

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 eleven (11) members qualified in the discipline relevant to the committee mandate or with a perspective necessary for fulsome consideration of the associated topic, including:

- One member of Council to serve as Chair, appointed by the Mayor; and,
- Ten (10) community representatives appointed by the Council including one youth voting member described as 16-24 years of age.

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.

Revised: January 8, 2020

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

Staff Support

The Parks and Recreation Department is the primary contact and will provide the required professional support. The Legislative Division will provide secretarial and administrative support.

Review of Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed during the committee's first meeting each term.

Youth Development Strategy Year Four Report | 2019



PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES



“...so I really like it here at the teen centre a lot because I’ve made a lot of friends and I finally felt like there was a place where people really wanted me for me, and not for being someone I’m not”

- Eliza, 12yrs old, Flipside drop in participant

Increase Participation



- Provided new summer camp opportunities for youth, including Breakout Adventures (97% fill rate).
- Collaborated with HEROS beginner hockey program to provide entry level hockey skills to (34) Saanich youth.
- Offered new and affordable youth friendly entry level activities - example Karate for beginners at Claremont Secondary, youth art workshops at Cedar Hill.
- Increased youth LIFE applications. Supported applications for 60+ new LIFE passes for youth.
- Implemented new pilot program for free weightroom access for youth at Cedar Hill.
- Enhanced offerings through recreation centre partners, for example low cost cooking skills at Gordon Head, Friday night board game café and low cost sports drop in at Pearkes, and new youth pottery drop in at Cedar Hill.



Collaboration



- Offered new school based partnership programs with SD61 & 63 – for example enhanced lunch hour activity programs at Colquitz Middle School, and FITQuest (youth fitness) Program at Arbutus Global Middle School.
- Worked closely with SD61 Youth and Family Counselors in developing new co-programming, for example Stepping up to High School.
- Allocated \$2000 in grants (Start Up Funds) to youth groups in support of a variety of local initiatives – for example: ICA Youth Group/Camosun College, Saanich Peninsula Youth Clinic, Royal Oak Middle School Youth Group, Reynolds Secondary Spoken Word Team.
- Participated in mock interviews, new family orientation, and career springboard programs in partnership with local schools.

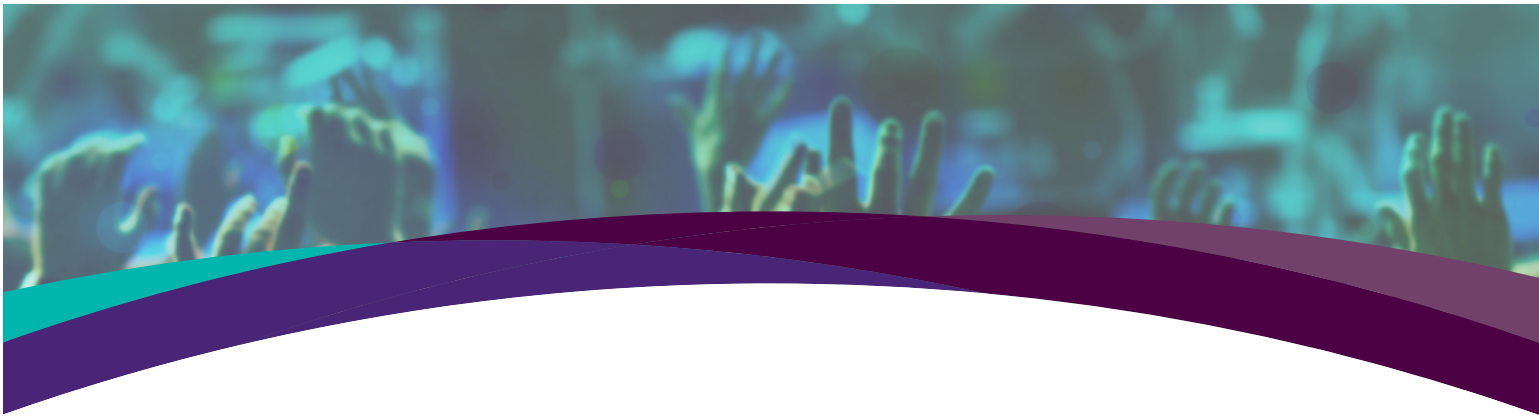


Risk and Outdoor Play



- In partnership with Saanich Parks, engaged with over 150 local middle and secondary students through Youth Park planning process.
- Received over 350 responses to the new Tripp Station Youth Park community survey.
- Successfully facilitated overnight camping excursion to Sombrio Beach with youth group out of the Flipside Teen Centre.
- Expanded opportunities for supported outdoor challenge play through additional Outdoor Adventure Club hours.
- Consulted with community partners such as Power to Be on improving opportunities for youth to be active in outdoor environments.





Social Wellbeing



- Supported new wellness program with Artemis Place Secondary School.
- Created new Youth Awards recognition with a focus on social wellness.
- Offered new youth mental health first aid training at Gordon Head.
- Developed innovative Workin' on Wellness program at GR Pearkes.
- Expanded life skills programming at Gordon Head, for example low cost first aid, and cooking skills.
- Implemented new Life Hacks summer camp for youth focusing on healthy eating at Upside Teen Centre.

Communication



- Held 15+ participant engagements to determine communication strategy appropriate for youth.
- Researched possible use of social media platforms for youth communication purposes.
- Developed new branded material to market Youth Services.
- Created new targeted youth program guide to communicate directly with families, youth and youth serving agencies.

Youth Spaces



- Undertook a re-visioning of youth services operations of teen centres and associated programs/services which resulted in increased efficiency and a new leadership structure.
- Expanded offerings to youth serving partner agencies and their youth to share use of our teen centre spaces, for example – the Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society, Intercultural Association of Victoria, and the Thai Youth Group.
- The Flipside Teen Centre increased drop in offerings in response to community need.
- New Indigenous welcome signage installed at all teen centres.
- Developed new drop in youth programming at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. For example: Friday night social, and free weightroom access for 13yrs+ on Friday nights.



By the numbers

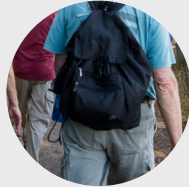
10,000+

youth drop in experiences
at 3 teen centres



131

of registrants
for Breakout
Adventures -
new youth
summer camp.



34lbs

Average weight of
backpack on Sombrio
Beach Camping Trip

1

Successful Youth Art
Intern at Cedar Hill
Recreation Centre



540

of minutes of ice time
for new beginner youth
hockey program

62

of mock interviews
performed by YS
staff at SD61 & 63
Secondary Schools



6 bags of treats
given to Lawrence the
therapy dog in pilot
program at the Flipside

367

Respondents to
Parks' Youth Park
public survey



66

of LIFE passes
provided to Saanich
youth

754

of healthy
snacks
provided
to youth at
drop in teen
centres



92

of staff hours
contributed to Royal
Oak Middle School
lunch hour programs

39

packages of bacon
devoured at FUEL
breakfast program at
Backdoor Teen Centre



154

of students engaged
through Youth Park
planning sessions

3

of original art pieces
displayed at Backdoor Teen
Centre by Ucluelet First Nation's
youth artist Wilson Tutube



74lbs

of clay used in new
youth drop in pottery at
Cedar Hill Rec Centre

11

of awards given
to Saanich Youth
at 1st Annual Youth
Awards Gala



The Corporation of the District of Saanich

REPORT

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee

From: Carole Ireland, Acting Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 2/21/2020

Subject: February 2020 Monthly Report

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 Campus

The Cedar Hill Golf Course had a strong finish to 2019. For the second year in a row we were voted the #1 public golf course in the TC Readers Choice Awards. On December 7 and 8 we broke winter green fee records with revenues of over \$3000 for the weekend (over \$2000 on December 7 alone). The revenue in this single weekend eclipsed all green fee revenues earned the entire month of December 2013! This is due in large part to the drainage work done by the grounds crew over the last 5 years. We now have a course that is playable year round (and the golfing public now knows it). In addition, more than 50,000 rounds were played on the golf course in 2019, approximately 10,000 more rounds than in 2013. This is a significant milestone and is getting closer to our goal of 60,000 per year.

Water has been the theme at the golf course for the month of January. Record rains and a snowfall closed the course for many days so staff and golfers alike are very happy to see the February sun and early signs of Spring. There was also the clubhouse flood on January 15th which closed the building and forced the cancellation of approximately 100 events. It is estimated to take 6 - 9 months to restore the building for public use. Temporary Food and Beverage services are being planned using tents and trailers and golf will not be affected as a result of the flood.

Gordon Head Community Recreation Centre

As part of Gordon Head's Annual Christmas Tree Competition, the Dryland Team did a "Heart of the Community Tree". Patrons were asked to write what they love about Gordon Head Recreation Centre on a heart-shaped decoration. Here are some of the comments about what patrons love about the centre: ~ "The teachers, the lessons, the pools" ~ "Everyone is allowed in. It is inclusive" ~ "The lifeguards" ~ "The wonderful staff" ~

Before the holidays, we replaced some weight room machine attachments and have received very positive feedback from regular patrons. Over the holidays people approached weight room staff and asked questions about use of equipment, improving their stretches and/or trying different exercise routines. Starting off the year with New Year's resolutions, fitness classes are almost full and the weight room is seeing steady numbers with more use during our traditionally low-use times (i.e., early afternoon).

Thank you to many of our aquatic staff stepped up over the December holidays to take on new positions of Lifeguarding along with the Aquatic Programmers personally working Lifeguarding shifts in order to keep our pool deck open for business. Recruitment for aquatics staff in the region is very challenging, and staff are working on a recruitment strategy to help us become more competitive with this market.

Gordon Head received two grants from BCRPA for January after school programming. We received the funding to offer a free 8 week session of Jazz and Hip Hop for elementary school children, as well as an 8 week session of Kindness club for middle school children.

G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre

In December G.R. Pearkes hosted their 2nd annual Ice Festival! It was a huge success, and increased in participation by roughly 70%. The Green Arena was transformed into a winter wonderland with a giant snow globe, trees, lights and snow.

The Gold Rink slab is over 15 years past its estimated lifespan and needs to be replaced. Staff have observed increasingly concerning issues with the slab, which has accelerated our previous timeline. To complete the work, the District will close the Gold Arena (starting March 31 2020) for approximately 18-months with the Green Rink remaining open, along with the rest of the facility.

We understand the significant impact the Gold Arena closure will have on our ice user groups. Our preference, with our users groups' best interests in mind, is to have a planned closure rather than a forced closure due to an unexpected slab failure. This will enable our user groups and public to be able to plan ahead for alternate ice arrangements. User-group engagement and ice allocation is ongoing.

Additionally, with the Market Analysis recommendations of a "Community Centre" approach, the staff at GR Pearkes begun to address the front lobby as a welcoming space. Staff have acquired a donated piano for use as an outdoor street piano (to be used outside the front doors during spring and summer). The walls have been re-painted and a plan is in progress to develop a more inviting front lobby complete with seating, artwork and community information.



Saanich Commonwealth Place

On December 29th it was announced that the fitness Facility at SCP was selected as the runner up in the category of Best Gym/Fitness Facility in the Times Colonist Readers Choice Awards. The award was highlighted in the Times Colonist along with photos and a write up.

Due to popular demand, approval has been given to increase our Weight Room hours on weekends. Starting this January, the weight room will open at 6 AM Saturdays and 7 AM on Sundays - an increase from our previous opening time of 8 AM.

The holiday season was celebrated by all departments and all levels at SCP, with interactive photo opportunities for all...including our feline mascot and social media sensation CLOVER!



Sports & Fitness Gym/Fitness Facility SAANICH COMMONWEALTH PLACE

The Commonwealth Place team is delighted to announce that everyone in our community has voted across the Saanich, Saanich and Esquimalt to help them achieve their personal health goals.

As a leader in our region, we have invested in our members' health, safety and well-being. Our award-winning facility has been recognized for its commitment to providing a safe and healthy environment for all members.

Thank you to all our members and the community for their support. We look forward to continuing to provide the best fitness experience for all our members.



January drop in numbers have set all-time records for our facility with 1906 including a jaw dropping 756 people through the weight room on January 6th! Happy New Fitness Year!

Prepared by: _____

Carole Ireland, Acting Senior Manager, Recreation

Approved by: _____

Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF SAANICH

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: February 27, 2020

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – February, 2020

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

Maintenance

Soccer season is trying to start up again, although fields are very wet at this time. January was the wettest month on record and wet weather continued into early February. Grass fields were closed to protect the turf. Fields will reopen as they dry out.

Ongoing maintenance services include washroom cleaning, refuse collection, camper cleanups, and some field lining.

We have completed the process of changing our 45 gallon drum refuse containers over to wheeled totes and have had our parks refuse truck adapted to pick them up. This is increasing our efficiency, reducing the chance of worker injuries, and providing a better refuse container with a fixed lid. We continue to struggle to keep up to the demands of refuse collection across the parks system with our one truck.

Baseball season is fast approaching and we are in the initial stages of working out a plan to get ready for the upcoming season. The Layritz #3 ball diamond is 90% done and will be completed in the spring for this summer's 2020 National Little League Championships.

Irrigation staff are doing repairs found during blow outs and repairing valves and systems as they can. We are installing a new irrigation system at Hampton Lawn bowls as the old system had failed and parts were no longer available for the old system.

Homeless camp clean ups are increasing and they are dealt with as they are reported according to the Parks Management and Control Bylaw. Illegal dumping in parks is unfortunately ongoing and growing.

The Parks mechanic shop is busy repairing the turf crew equipment as needed and preparing for the upcoming mowing season.

Construction

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

- **Quadrant 4 Trail Resurfacing Program** – work is being completed on gravel trails within Quadrant 4 (East Saanich). The crew has been most recently working in Brodick Park, on sections of the Feltham Trail as well as in Montague Park.

- **Trail washouts repair** – due to the recent heavy rain events many trails especially those with sloped sections were damaged by erosion. The Construction crew has been very busy in the last two weeks repairing these trails. This work will continue.
- **Reynold’s Park** playground replacement project is well under way. The electrical contractor and BC Hydro are working on removing the overhead power supply line and installing a new underground service into the building near the playground. Close to 80% of concrete work including supports for the new play equipment has been completed. The remaining portion of the curb wall around the playground is framed and concrete will be poured when the weather allows. Once all concrete work is complete, the crew will start installing new playground equipment.
- **Parks ID Signage** – The crew has been installing new park ID signs across the Parks system. We are planning on completing 25 new park ID signs this year.

Horticulture

Horticulture staff are continuing to do grounds maintenance at Municipal Facilities and are also doing winter pruning of shrub beds in parks and streetscapes. We are well into our annual maintenance program for neighbourhood traffic circles which will run through February and into March.

Staff have been researching and doing testing on a variety of battery powered landscape equipment and we will be trying some more this month to see how they fare in a commercial heavy use environment. While we have used some electric tools for several years now (hedge trimmers, small chainsaws and small blowers), we expect to purchase more this year for use around facilities in particular as electric equipment has the extra benefit of being quieter as well as having reduced emissions. As battery life and power continue to improve we will look at going to more electric equipment for our high volume mowing crews as well.

One of our Horticulturalists used his “Natural Intelligence” in creating an art installation which can be found in the planter at the entrance to Pearkes Recreation Centre.



Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry continues to provide support to Engineering and Public Works on civil plan reviews and construction supervision around public trees. The arboriculture crew is actively working through the incoming requests for services, and the stump grinding crew is now immersed with seasonal tree planting.

Natural Areas

The 2019/2020 winter tree planting program is off to a good start. We are more than half way through our planting list for this season; we are targeting 3rd week in March to wrap up the tree planting season. Communities planted so far include: Royal Oak, Cordova Bay, Rural Saanich, Carey, & Tillicum. The planting crew is heading into Gordon Head where approximately 80 trees will be planted this winter.

We are proposing that Mount View Park be the location of this years Tree Appreciation Day (T.A.D.) event, most likely to be held on November 7th. It's a great central location and well used by the local community including Mount View Heights Long Term Care facility and Mount View Village housing complex right next door. A few months ago, we were approached by an individual representing a group celebrating their 50th high school



reunion (Mount View High School, now a senior's complex) in 2020. The group wanted to purchase 50 trees and have them planted somewhere in Saanich to give back to the community. The old high school was located right next to Mount View Park so it seemed like a no-brainer to propose the T.A.D. event in Mount View Park and plant 50 trees. The park offers a fantastic opportunity to plant trail-lined trees, a couple of small groves of trees, and to enhance the wet/receiving site (pond) in the west corner. We would also like to incorporate natural play space(s) amongst the newly planted trees. The 50th reunion planting celebration would be a great event for the park and community.

The Natural Areas crew has about two dozen restoration plantings to complete this winter, many of which were initiated by the great work removing invasives by the Pulling Together (PT) Volunteer program. Parks include: Mt Douglas Park - Whittaker Trail (Feb 20th planting), Churchill/Edgemont Trail (Feb 29th planting with 10th Garry Oak Scouts), Bruce Hutchison (Feb 15th planting party), Ferndale Forest, Feltham Wetlands (Feb 20th planting party with PT volunteers and Lambrick Park High School), Cedar Hill, Marigold (Feb 22nd planting with Scout Troop), Goward, Whitehead, Falaise, Haro Woods (Feb 29th planting event with PT volunteers & Mt. Douglas High), Beckwith, Cuthbert Holmes and Phyllis. The PT Lead Stewards are given an opportunity each fall to submit a plant order and we either drop off the plants for the volunteers to plant or coordinate a planting party with staff, volunteers, and youth groups.

The Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society hosted their annual salmon carcass toss event on Saturday, January 25th in conjunction with a Parks tree planting event (one gallon Western red cedar trees). The 50 trees are part of the "Climate Emergency Accelerated Action - Tree Planting" proposal (Council Report dated 12/16/2019). With the dying of intermediate and co-dominant Western red cedars and Grand firs (and the storm damage mature trees) in many of our forested parks, it will be important to

establish a regeneration layer of conifers and deciduous trees. Fifty Sword fern and Dull Oregon grape are still to be planted at Tinker Town in Mt Douglas Park where 17 trees were planted on National Tree Planting Day in September. We hope to engage Victoria Nature School with the shrub planting as they helped plant the trees on the National Tree Day.

Pulling Together volunteer groups are getting very active with crews supporting several groups on a weekly basis. The Natural Areas team is working closely with our new Park Stewardship Coordinator, to get her up to speed with the amazing work done by our PT volunteers. (See the Community Development and Business Systems update below).

Park Planning and Design

Washroom Plan – The final Washroom Operations and Capital Plan went to Council for information in December. This is a long term plan supported by the parks capital budget to improve the level of service for park visitors at a number of key locations. More information can be found on the Saanich website at <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/parks-and-recreation-washroom-strategy.html>

Cedar Hill Park Management Plan – Management Plan - The DRAFT Management Plan for Cedar Hill Park has now been posted to the project web-page and is available for viewing and comment until **March 11, 2020**. <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/cedar-hill-park.html>

We've asked that the public review the document and send any comments they have directly to the Parks Division via either mail or email

George Tripp Substation Youth Park – We are in the process of hiring a consultant to create a few options to present at a public event in the coming months. To date we have received one letter of feedback to our letter that was sent out on Jan 27th to the local residents outlining our commitments to addressing their concerns.

Hampton Park – Parks staff and Engineering staff are working with consulting engineers to develop a plan to improve the parking lot and pathways in the park in conjunction with sidewalk and sewer improvements along Hampton Road.

Horner Park Renewal Project - A proposed Concept Plan for Horner Park has been posted to the project web-page and is available for viewing and comment until **March 16, 2020**.

We have asked that the community review the plan which shows various elements that were supported via a recent Open House, survey and conversations with various members of the community. Comments should be sent directly to the Parks Division via either mail or email. <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/horner-park-renewal-project.html>

Gore Memorial Peace Park Enhancement – This small park located at Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Road celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019. Park enhancements are

now complete setting the stage for the next 100 years. A visit to this park will provide the public with interesting historical information on the background and stories relating to the Shelbourne Memorial Avenue designation.

Community Development and Business Systems Section

Our new Parks Stewardship Coordinator started on January 21 and has jumped right in to our busy restoration season.

Meetings with Pulling Together groups, and communications with local schools indicate that it will be a busy season ahead. Park Ambassadors continue to document their involvement and observations at Mount Douglas Park.



Our new Park Use Coordinator has also began his job in early January. He has been busy meeting many of our sports and other park use groups to learn about their programs.

Volunteer group at Arbutus Cove Park

The new Tree Bylaw amendments went into effect on February 5, 2020. The main goals of these amendments were to increase replacement trees and to increase bonding amounts so people have more incentive to replant trees to replace those that are removed through development. Saanich Parks offered training sessions for staff, and the development community to ensure everyone understands the new rules and application of the Bylaw amendments.

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
From: Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services
Date: 27 FEB 2020
Subject: Community Services Division Update

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 Community Services division activities.

DISCUSSION

Community Arts: [Family Arts Festival](#) took place February 17 at Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre. The Honourable Carole James, Minister of Finance and Deputy Premier visited the event to celebrate Family Day with the community and get hands-on with creativity and culture. Attendance was steady all day with an estimated 1500-200 total visits.



ICA Youth Art Project: *This is Me*

Through February, Saanich hosts the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) [Youth Art Project, *This is Me*](#) in the Cedar Hill Arts Wing. This exhibit focuses on identity, race, faith and belonging through painting and collage “portraits” and words of seven newcomer youth. In its first week of display, heartfelt feedback has been received by community members including recent immigrants who were deeply moved by the expressions and experiences of the youth, resulting in new connections to upcoming ICA arts and engagement initiatives.

This month Saanich hosted two [Youth Spoken Word Open Mic Nights](#) in partnership with the Victoria Poetry Project and local high schools. Mentored by community poets and teachers, youth gain experiencing hosting events and performing amongst peers, family and community. Entrance by donation, proceeds support spoken word teams travel and participate in regional and provincial spoken word competitions.

Exhibitions:



Chris Miles: *Parked in Victoria*

Arts Centre at Cedar Hill: February 19-March 9, 2020

Main Gallery: Geddes, Jackson, Lombardi and McGowan - *Outside the Lines*

Café Gallery: Chris Miles - *Parked in Victoria*

Saanich Municipal Hall: February 20-March 30, 2020

Susan Turnbull Caton, Alwyn Rutherford, Bill Zuk and Robert Dalton

Diversity and Equity: January 27th was our first ever [Lunar New Year Celebration](#) at Saanich Municipal Hall. Hosted in partnership with the Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese community, there was food, musical performances and concluded with a Peking Opera performance.

[Muslim Women and Girls](#) programming is going strong with three weekly fitness classes, bi-weekly weight room drop-ins at Gordon Head Recreation Centre and bi-weekly sports drop-ins at Colquitz Middle School.

In mid-February approximately twenty Parks and Planning staff participated with a [Lekwungen Territory Tour](#). Mark Albany from the Songhees Nation led the sessions. The tour took staff to six locations to talk about the history of the location, traditional practices and impact of colonization on the locations and the region.

Inclusion and Accessibility: Since the inception of [Saanich's Leisure Assistant Pass](#) program in late July 2019, the department has issued 296 passes to date. Pass applications continue to grow as the community becomes more familiar with the new procedures to obtain passes through their municipal recreation centre. Recreation Integration Victoria will no longer provide support though their regional Leisure Assistant Pass as of March 31, 2020.

As predicted, requests from families continue to grow for [Saanich Inclusion Leaders](#). We are on the path to provide 1-on-1 support to a dozen families for Spring Break Camps (March 16-27). Inclusion Leaders supervise and assist participants with additional physical, behavioural or developmental support requirements in order to accommodate their participation in camp experiences.

Older Adult Services: The [NEAT \(Neighbours Engaging in Activities Together\)](#) program will continue into 2020 with remaining grant funding from 2019. The next site started Feb 10th at Mt Douglas Housing Society with strong interest. This not-for-profit residence recently opened their new apartment building and now houses 140 older adults on low income.

The NEAT program will be highlighted in BCRPA Snapshots at the 2020 Conference. Snapshots are short presentations on big ideas, concepts and innovative programs that are being coordinated around the province. Community Service staff members, Julie Wallace and Laura Van Dyk, will co-present this topic.



Initial dialogues have begun with the [Victoria Native Friendship Centre](#) and Saanich Community Services to build a relationship between Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services and VNFC Elders. Elders have expressed an interest in learning about opportunities in recreation and community but feel uncomfortable and sometimes unwelcome in recreation centres. Dialogues will be scheduled to hear more about what they are looking for and how we can work together to welcome them into our programs and centres.



Special Events: **NEW Earth Day 2020 Saanich!** The Saanich Cycling Festival is growing and expanding for 2020 as the district launches the new Climate Action Plan and celebrates the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Saanich Municipal Hall provides a unique and central destination for an Earth Day event, and having Swan Lake next to the Hall adds another nature element to the celebration. The event will focus on cycling as the primary way to get to the Hall but there will be a number of new activities added such as nature walks at Swan Lake, Climate Action presentations in the Council Chambers, Farmers Market vendors as well as a variety of food trucks.

Earth Day 2020 Saanich – Save the Date

Active Transportation | Education | Climate Action

Sunday, April 19, 2020, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at Saanich Municipal Hall

Youth Services: As Cedar Hill Recreation Centre (CHRC) is the only Saanich Recreation Centre without a formal teen centre, Youth Services has been focusing on building capacity through joint programming, outreach and event support since the Youth Development Strategy was passed in 2015. A desire for more youth programming in the Cedar Hill neighbourhood was also identified as a priority through the recent Recreation Market Analysis.



To that end this past fall we ramped up our direct programming efforts and implemented a new Friday night social drop in for youth at CHRC. Youth are able to drop in, enjoy some social time, and if they choose to, participants can partake in a number of special activities such as baking, racquet sports, or various art based workshops. Recognizing the needs for youth to be physically active as well as socially engaged, we've been piloting free access for youth to use the weight room at CHRC between 7-10pm. This coincides nicely with the free weight room orientations that Saanich offers to youth at all four recreation centres. Since its inception in mid-September, we've seen over 100 youth attend the drop in and we anticipate seeing those numbers increase over winter spring 2020.