

AGENDA
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Saanich Police Building, Kirby Room
Thursday, October 1, 2020, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 measures, Saanich is unable to accommodate the public for any Council, Committee of the Whole, Advisory, Board or Foundation meetings while maintaining the limits on large gatherings due to the Public Health Order.

As per the Order of the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Emergency Program Act, Ministerial Order No. M192, public attendance at the meeting is not required if it cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the Public Health Act.

To register to hear this meeting by telephone, please email clerksec@saanich.ca or telephone 250-475-5501. You are asked to provide your name and an email address where instructions can be sent to you, along with the name and date of the advisory committee meeting you wish to hear. The registration deadline is 12:00 p.m. noon on the day of the meeting.

*** Territorial Acknowledgement ***

1. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
 - September 3, 2020

2. **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

3. **FRIENDS OF CEDAR HILL - PULLING TOGETHER PROGRAM**
 - Presentation - Friends of Cedar Hill Park (attachment)

4. **CEDAR HILL PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**
 - Presentation - Park Planner (attachment)

5. **NATURAL INTELLIGENCE**
 - Presentation – Senior Manager of Parks (attachment)

6. **BRAINSTORMING SESSION - REMAINING ITEMS**
 - Discussion on related items from brainstorming session

7. **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES**
 - Recreation update (attachment)
 - Parks update (attachment)

*** Adjournment ***

Next Meeting: November 5, 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, Council Chambers
September 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm

Present: Councillor Ned Taylor (Chair), Ted Austin, Trevor Barry, Kathleen Burton, Pamela Carroll, Lyndsay Edgar (5:34 pm), Amy-Jade Louie (6:04 pm via telephone), Erin Lumley (via telephone), Dexter Owen, Stefanie Yao

Staff: Cris Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Alabama Chevrier

Minutes

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held February 27, 2020, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed members back and stated he is pleased that the committee work can now continue. He noted that this meeting will be fairly informal, and that some members have chosen to attend this meeting via telephone.

COMMITTEE BRAINSTORM

The Chair referred to a handout that includes ideas from Committee members for future discussion/action. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to prioritize ideas to explore/pursue at upcoming meetings, and also prioritize items members wish to learn about.

Ideas to explore/pursue at upcoming meetings:

- Using technology in recreation centres to increase recreation users, reduce barriers and improve accessibility to recreation.
- Allowing the consumption of alcohol in certain parks for responsible adults.
- Food truck festival
 - Separate from food truck pilot project.
- Youth bike park/skate park, McMinn bike park, etc.
- New ice rink.
- Projects to support local pollinators
 - Ask staff about what we plant, what is safe and what is not safe for pollinators.
 - Native species and non-native species, are we planting to attract native pollinators, etc.
 - Public education/awareness, learning opportunities for the public to support pollinators.
 - People can plant certain plants in their gardens to attract pollinators, can be affordable and effective.

- Partner with local organization undertaking work in this regard already (ex. HCP, HAT, etc.).
- Establish more island gardens, community food gardens or pollinator attractions /hives.
- Parking Policy/charging for parking at recreation centres and parks
 - Electric vehicle charging parking policy.
 - Discussion.
- More art/art projects in parks, particularly art which supports messages and learning opportunities for anti-racism, multiculturalism, inclusivity and local First Nations culture.
- More multiculturalism in parks.
- Butterfly dome (example in Montreal).
- Controlled burns in natural/forested areas to support regeneration.
- More 'natural feeling' in parks.
- Create a 'Nature walks' program for the public through Saanich Recreation.
- Swimming lessons in lakes.
- Offer the projects at local schools to enrich the landscape and show children how to better steward the land.
- More youth development/youth engagement.
- Revitalization of the Saanich Youth Council.
- If COVID-19 spikes again in the CRD, can we continue to meet virtually?
- More involvement with post-secondary institutions. Engage recreation, kinesiology, education, psychology students and programs for ideas, round tables and some job shadowing.
- More small events/community gatherings.
- Inspire long term volunteering and public participation.

Items members wish to learn about:

- How will Parks and Recreation manage through the pandemic, with higher usage of people in the parks, etc?
- New science of water retention, as it applies to sports fields. What combination is best between sand and soil?
 - Climate change adaptation.
- Dogs in parks, bylaws, policies, what will happen with Cadboro Bay Gyro Beach, etc?
 - Fenced areas for dogs to be safely off-leash.
- Are recreation centres at capacity? What is at capacity, what do we need more of?
- Vital Signs Report is a good resource and committee could discuss.
- Natural Intelligence Program, some ideas listed could be incorporated into the larger NI Program.
- Update parks and assets as found on Google Maps and other external mapping sites for a cohesive understanding of park boundaries, parking lots, accessible bathrooms, playgrounds, etc.
- Pulling together, other volunteer programs already in place in Saanich, opportunities for new volunteer programs.
- Pocket parks.

- What are our plans for more parks in areas such as the Shelbourne Valley and Uptown Douglas Corridor?
- The hidden gems of parks in Saanich and various activities and services that Saanich Parks and Recreation offers.
- Park systems for walking/biking & how they are built when private lands are invested.
- What is the long-term plan/vision for the Gorge?
 - Shared with the Township of Esquimalt and the Town of View Royal.
- Saanich Youth Council - what is the current situation?
- What do the citizens of Saanich think about our Parks, Trails and Recreation?
- Recreation Market Analysis.
- The bylaws/procedures which govern our resources and how to participate at meetings following Robert's Rules of order.
- How can we support reconciliation in Parks? Do we know the traditional, First Nations place names of our parks?
 - What do our First Nations neighbors' want?
 - Renaming Mt Douglas Park to P'kols.
 - Could we rename other parks to their original First Nations place names?
 - At times places do have multiple names.
 - Very exciting work underway in Community Services Division.

It was suggested that it would be of benefit to streamline the above lists to 6-7 items.

In reply to some comments and questions, the Senior Manager of Community Services noted that:

- Staff can provide information on Saanich Recreation Market Analysis.
- Saanich is working with the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue, whose areas of focus include supporting urban Indigenous voice, enabling community engagement and generating ideas for tangible actions.
- There is an upcoming diversity report going to Council on September 14, 2020.
- Regarding names of places, this can be challenging as there are different names for one place, depending upon the geographic footprint.

REPORTS FROM PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Division reports were provided by the Parks, Community Services, and Recreation Departments in the agenda package for Committee's information.

A brief discussion occurred regarding the pandemic cancelling four meetings this year. Committee members would be interested in an opportunity to extend their membership considering this was out of their control.

Motion: MOVED by A. Louie and Seconded by K. Burton, "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council that consideration be given to a one-year extension for the term of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee Chair and Committee members, in light of the impacts of COVID-19 on Advisory Committee meetings in 2020."

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Councillor Taylor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

DRAFT

FRIENDS OF CEDAR HILL PARK SOCIETY

Presentation to the Parks Trails and
Recreation Advisory Committee re
The CHP Management Plan Draft



Cedar Hill Park – Did you know?

Friends of Cedar Hill Park

Cedar Hill Park Management Plan

FCHPS Values

Connectivity and mobility in the Park

Thank You and Questions





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Cedar Hill Park

Management Plan

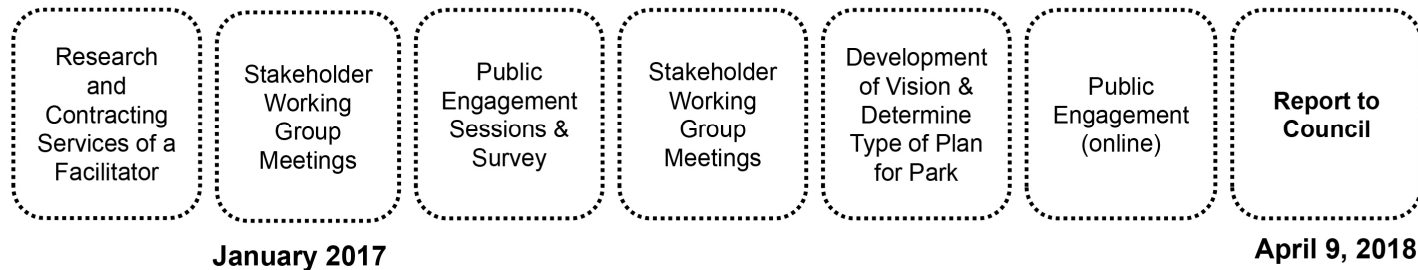
Presentation to Parks, Trails & Recreation
Committee

Oct 1, 2020

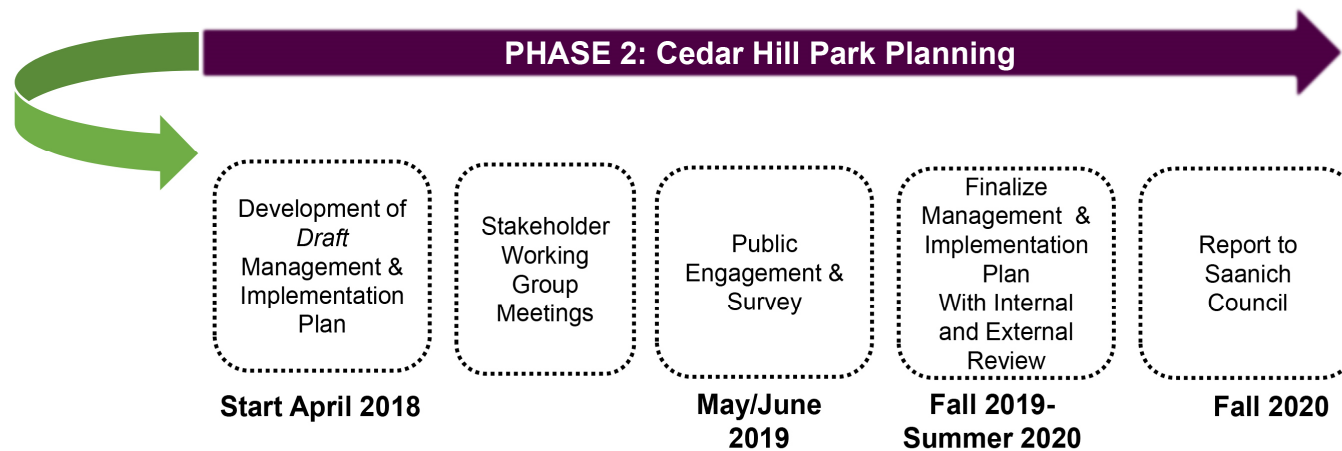


Timeline

PHASE 1: Cedar Hill Park Visioning and Planning



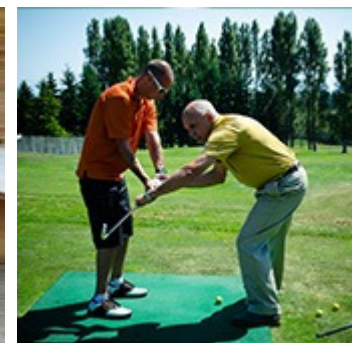
PHASE 2: Cedar Hill Park Planning



Out of Scope Items

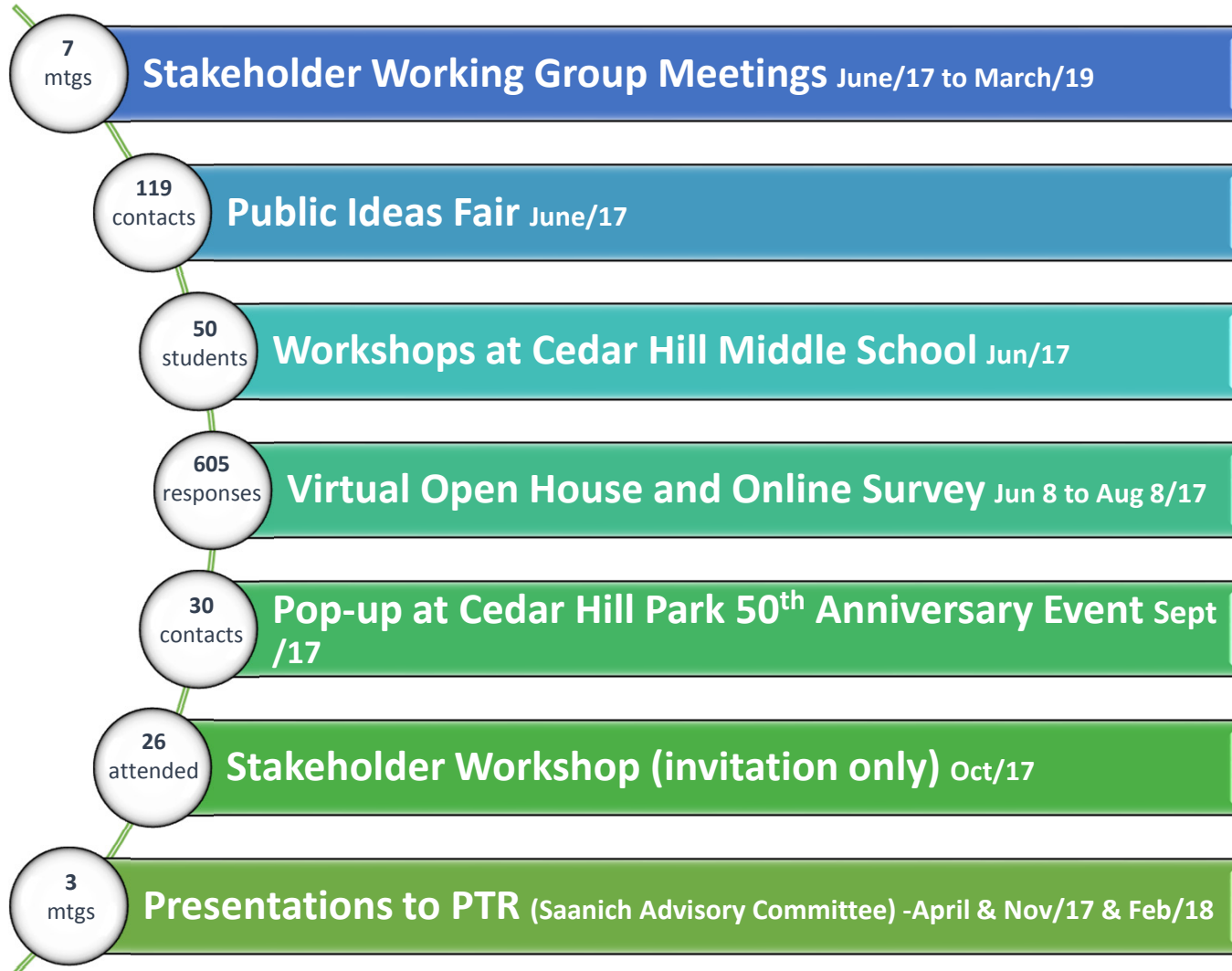
Golf Course & Recreation Centre

- Staff level and administration (Management)
- Current budget development and allocation both operational and capital (Management/Council)
- Fees and Charges (Management/Council)
- Implementation of recreation programs, services and rental activities within the facilities (Staff)
- Future development, expansion or change in service levels
- Implementation of building and course maintenance activities and priorities (Staff/Management)



Public Engagement Activities - Phase 1

(January 2017 – April 2018)



Park Strengths

- Large, beautiful park with vistas
- Natural areas and areas of Garry Oak ecosystem
- Diverse activities in a central location
- Nice, safe yet challenging path for unstructured exercise, dog walking, transportation, etc.
- Arts Facility
- Public Community golf course
- Affordable recreation opportunities



Park Weaknesses

- Lack of gathering/social spaces
- Limited food services
- Limited maintenance of natural areas, trails and benches
- Poor drainage in certain areas
- Inadequate wayfinding signage
- Recreation Centre is reaching capacity
- Bike/ped conflict at Derby, lack of good N/S route for bicycles
- Limited outdoor activities for children, youth & families
- Limited access for those with mobility challenges
- Poor access to park from Recreation Centre Parking Lot
- South edge of park (off Finalyson) is not attractive/welcoming
- Kings Pond is poorly structured / over-run with invasive plants
- Water quality / pollution an issue for Bowker Creek – Reach 17



Vision Statement

Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement.



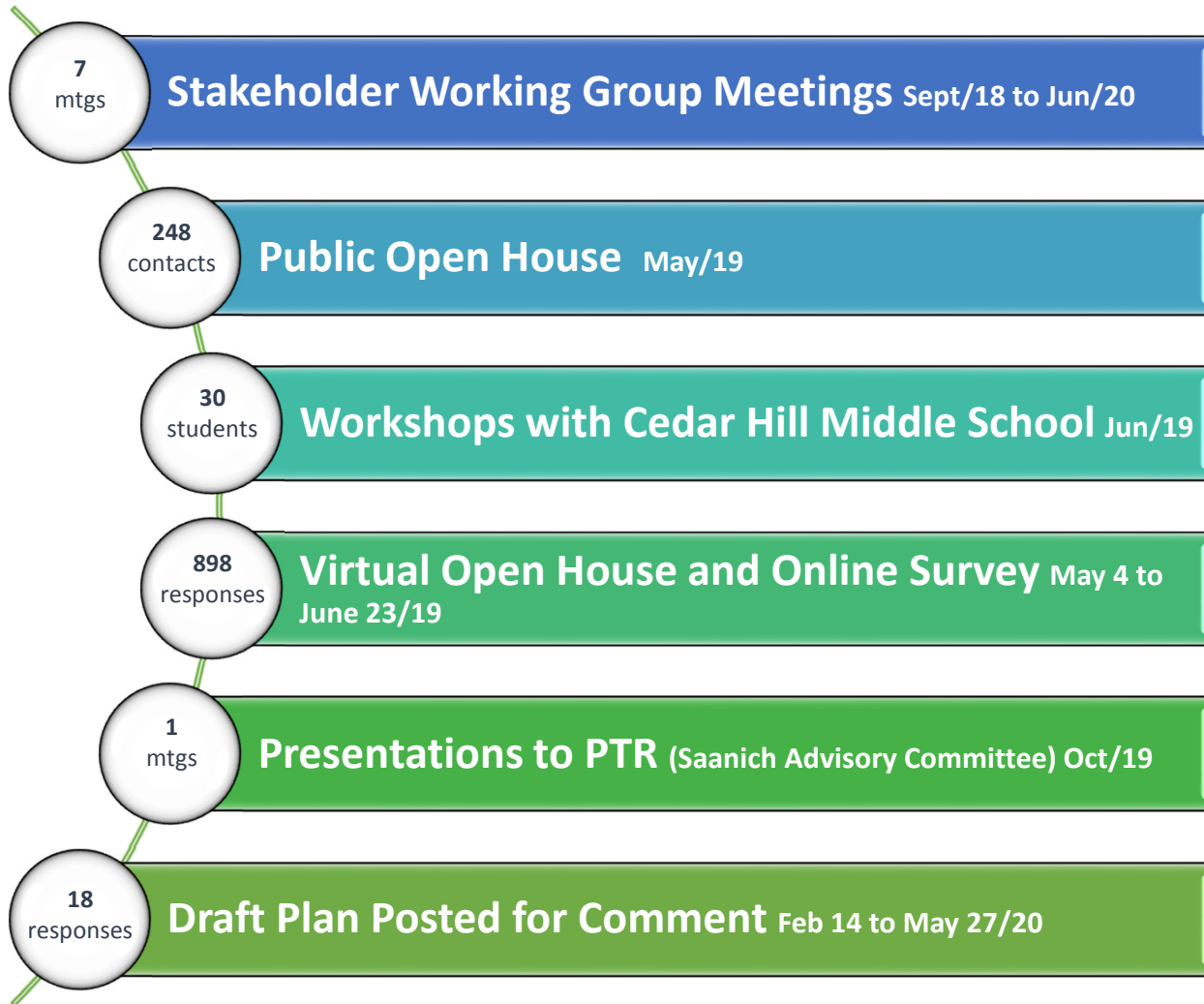
Themes

- Environmental management and restoration
- Connectivity and mobility in the park
- Recreation, play & gathering places for all ages and abilities
- Park management



Public Engagement Activities - Phase 2

(September 2018 – Fall 2020)



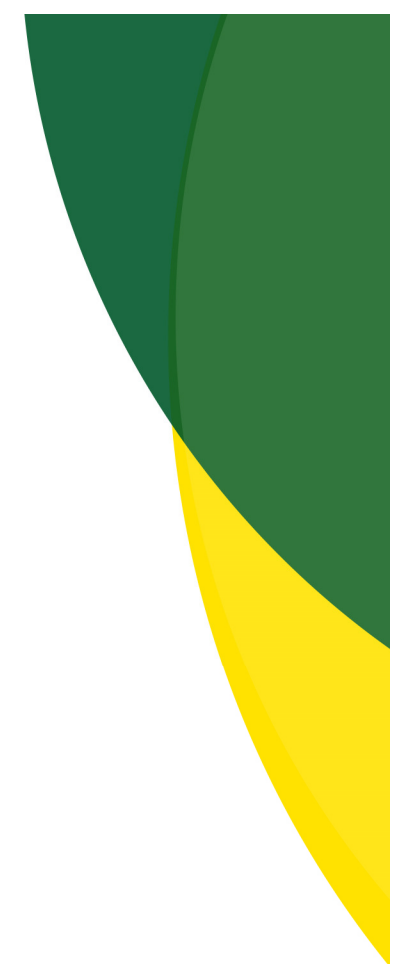
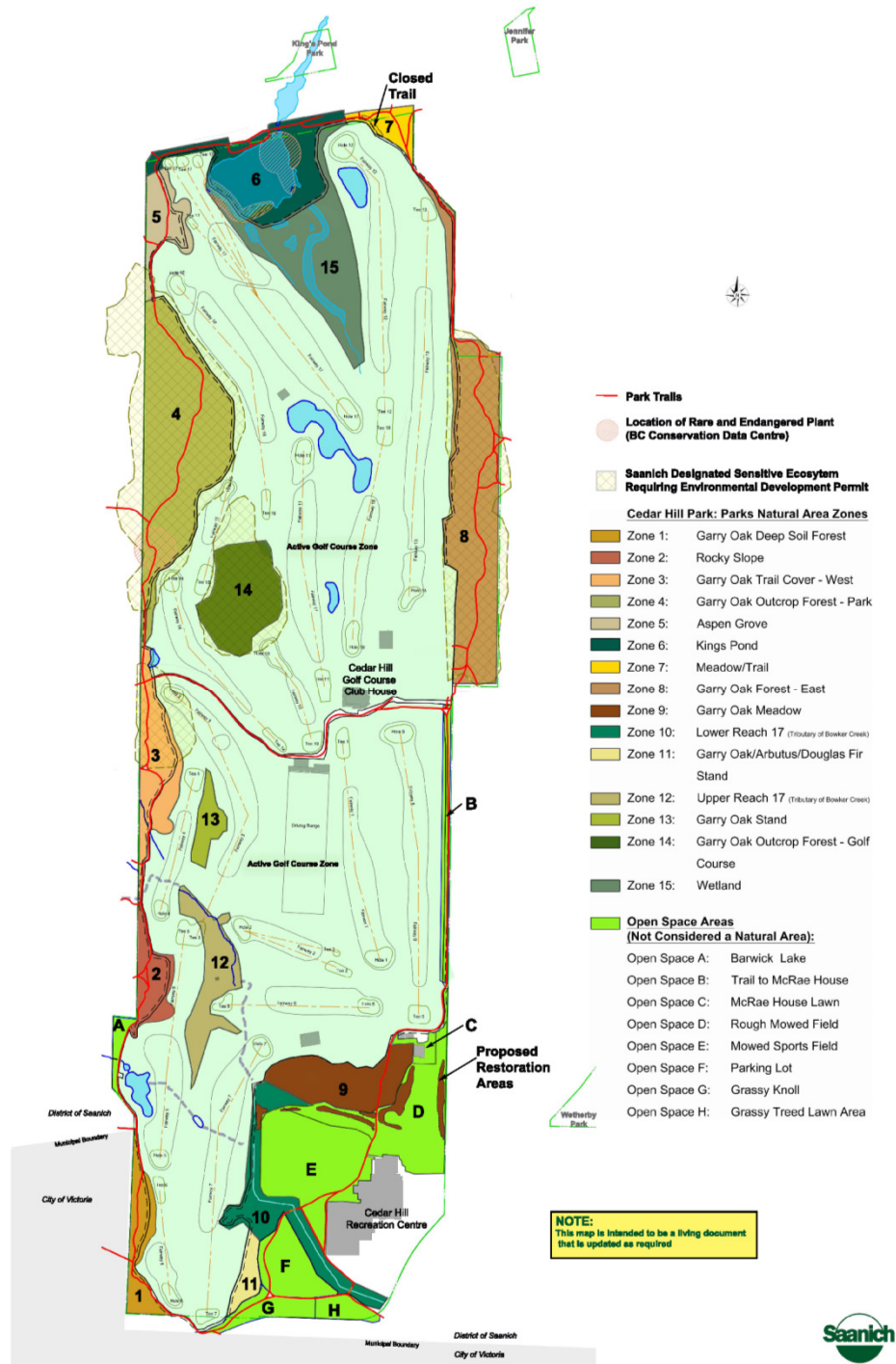
Goals

Environmental Management and Restoration

1. Move the Bowker Creek Blueprint forward (reach 17)
2. Restoration of Kings Pond
3. Provide a clear plan for the protection and enhancement for the natural areas in the park
4. Obtain Audubon Sanctuary certification for cedar hill golf course
5. Consider sustainable measures for the park

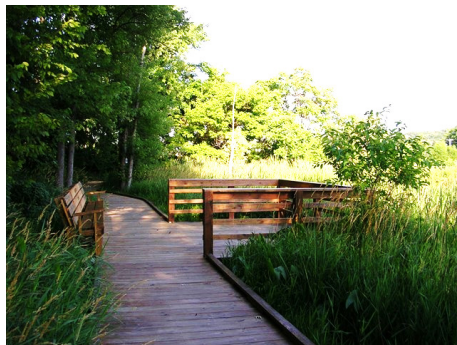


Natural Areas



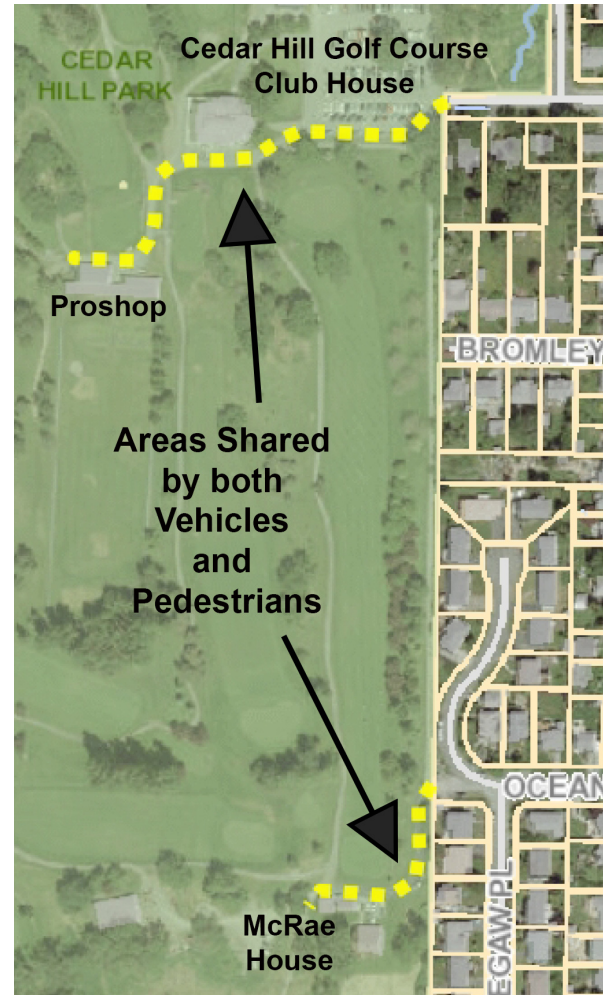
Connectivity and Mobility in the Park

6. Make parking lots more inviting, efficient and attractive
7.
 - a. Redesign the Derby connector multi-use trail so that it is safe and reduces user conflict
 - b. Assess the possibility of a safe active transportation connection for those traveling N/S in or around the park (to be completed via further planning work including public engagement)
8. Provide opportunities in the park for those with limited mobility





Proposed Review of Potential Active Transportation Use

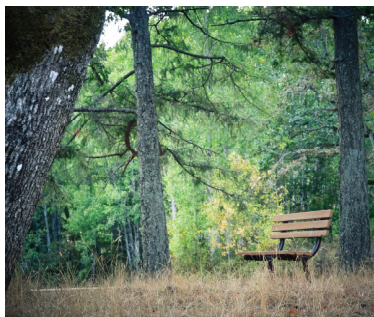


Areas of High Use

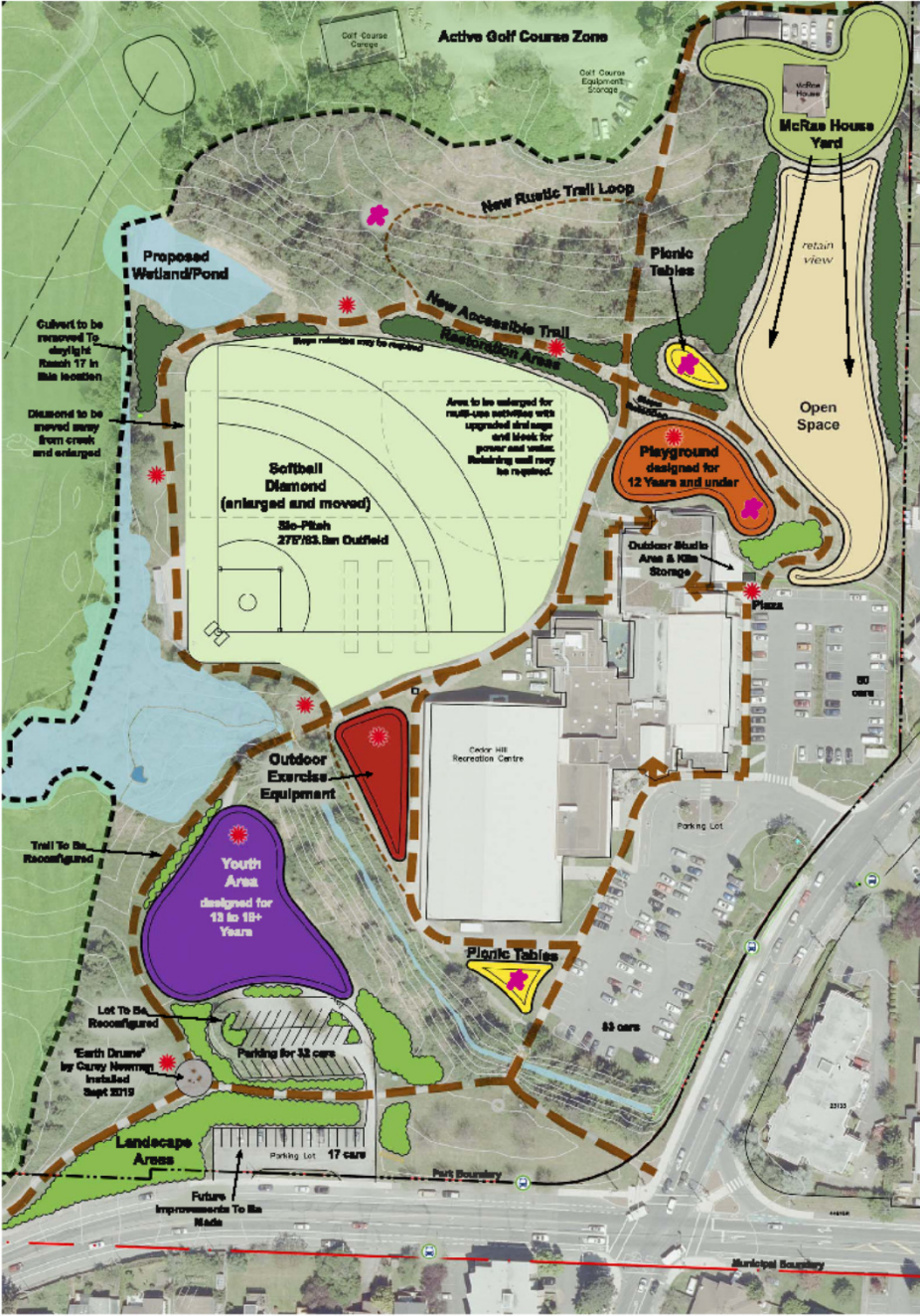


Recreation, Play and Gathering Places for All Ages and Abilities

9. Upgrade the open space with the ball diamonds for both baseball and other events and uses
10. Provide additional picnic & seating opportunities in the park
11. Develop youth (ages 13 to 18) specific activities
12. Develop a 'Model 1' playground for children ages 2 to 12
13. Provide outdoor exercise opportunities in the park
14. Ensure park visitors have access to adequate washroom facilities in the park
15. Restore a portion of the hill below McRae House back to a Garry oak meadow and plant fruit trees at McRae House
16. Identify and conduct a planning process should there be an expansion to the recreation centre in the future



Masterplan for Recreation Amenities



Typically Benches and Picnic Tables are integrated in with amenities - other locations shown using these symbols:
 * = possible new bench locations * = possible new picnic table location



Park Management

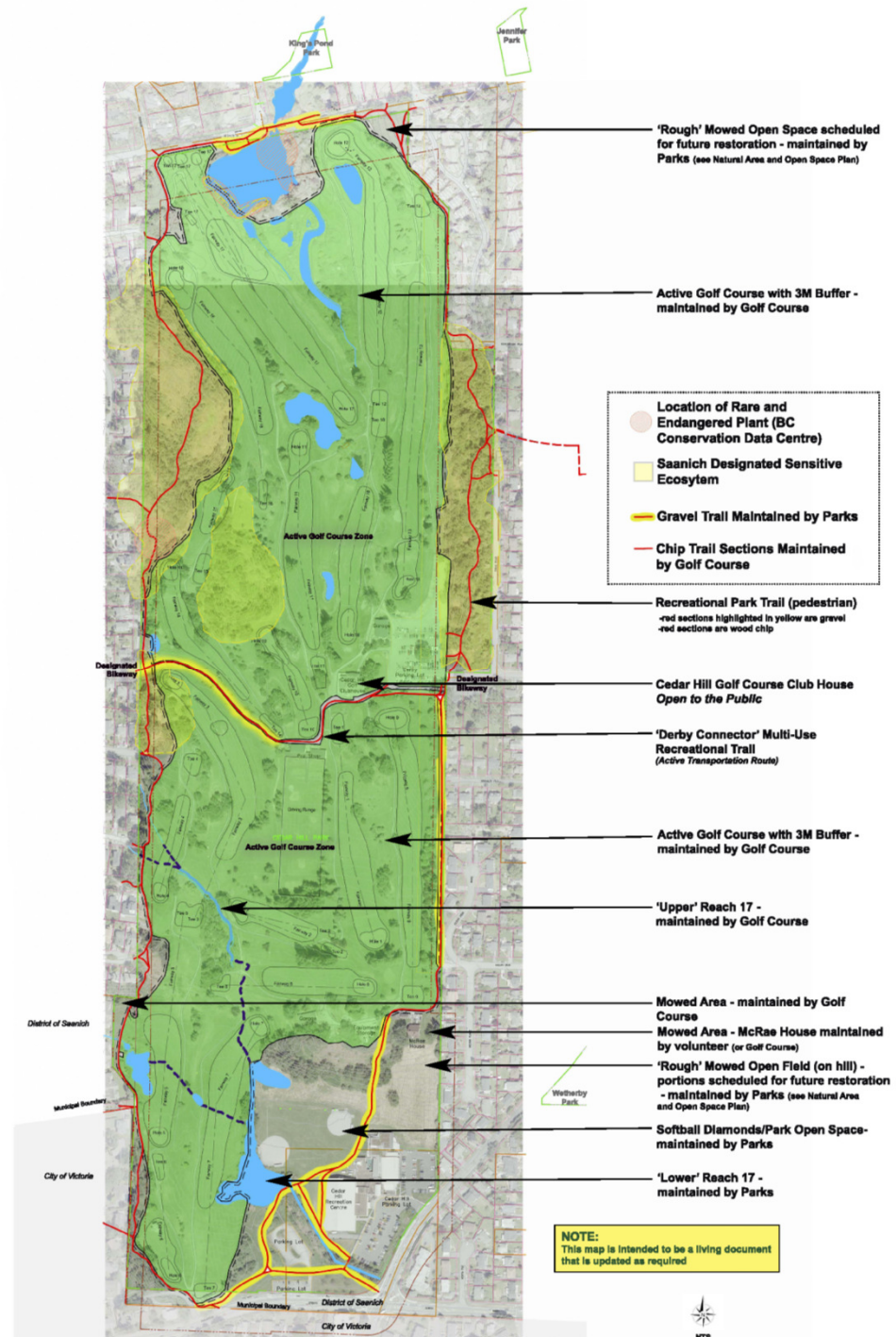
17. Communications with community

NOTE:

The active golf course zone has been identified and a management agreement was created in March 2019 clarifying the roles and responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Divisions.



Active Golf Course Zone and Management Areas



Priorities

Year 1-5 & Year 6-20

Goal #	Priorities Year 1-5
Goal 16 and 17	Notify or engage with the community about any significant changes proposed for the park or recreation centre
Goal 5 and 4	Consider sustainable measures and Best Management Practices for events and work in the park
Goal 8.	Review high conflict zone at Oceanview/McRae House (modify to make it more clear and safe for recreational trail users)
Goal 7a.	Upgrade and redesign Derby Road Connector multi-use trail (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 6 and 14	Install wayfinding signage along the recreational trail around the park
Goal 1	Develop a detailed plan for improvements to Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek)
Goal 1	Seek funding opportunities or community partnerships to implement improvements to Reach 17
Goal 2	Complete an assessment of Kings Pond and then develop a restoration plan
Goal 2	Seek funding opportunities or community partnerships to restore Kings Pond
Goal 2	Implement Kings Pond restoration/improvement plans including improvements to the viewing area (funding dependant)
Goal 3	Develop a plan for the protection and enhancement of Natural Areas in the park
Goal 6	Make entrances (x3) more identifiable and attractive
Goal 6	Upgrade one parking lot (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 7b	Identify and evaluate the feasibility of a possible bicycle route in or around the N/E corner of the park
Goal 10	Provide additional picnic tables and benches as new amenities are installed or needed
Goal 11	Design a Youth Amenity

Goal #	Priorities Year 6-20
Goal 11	Implement a Youth Amenity
Goal 1	Implement Reach 17 restoration/improvement plans including the addition of educational signage (funding dependant)
Goal 6	Upgrade two more parking lots (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 8	Create an accessible path near the recreation centre
Goal 9	Upgrade open space (ball diamonds) with improved drainage and power/water for both softball and other events/activities.
Goal 12	Design and implement a 'Model 1' playground for children 2 to 12
Goal 8	Review and possibly modify steep areas of the recreational trail
Goal 13	Design and implement an outdoor exercise circuit
Goal 15	Restore a portion of the hill below McRae House back to a Garry oak meadow and plant fruit trees at McRae House.



Budget

Class D Budget Estimates

- Year 1-5 \$960,000
- Year 6-20 To be determined



Next Steps

- Seeking PTR Endorsement
- Seeking Council Approval on
October 19-20

Link to plan online:

<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/cedar-hill-park.html>





Thank you

September, 2020

Natural Intelligence

Foundations of Stewardship

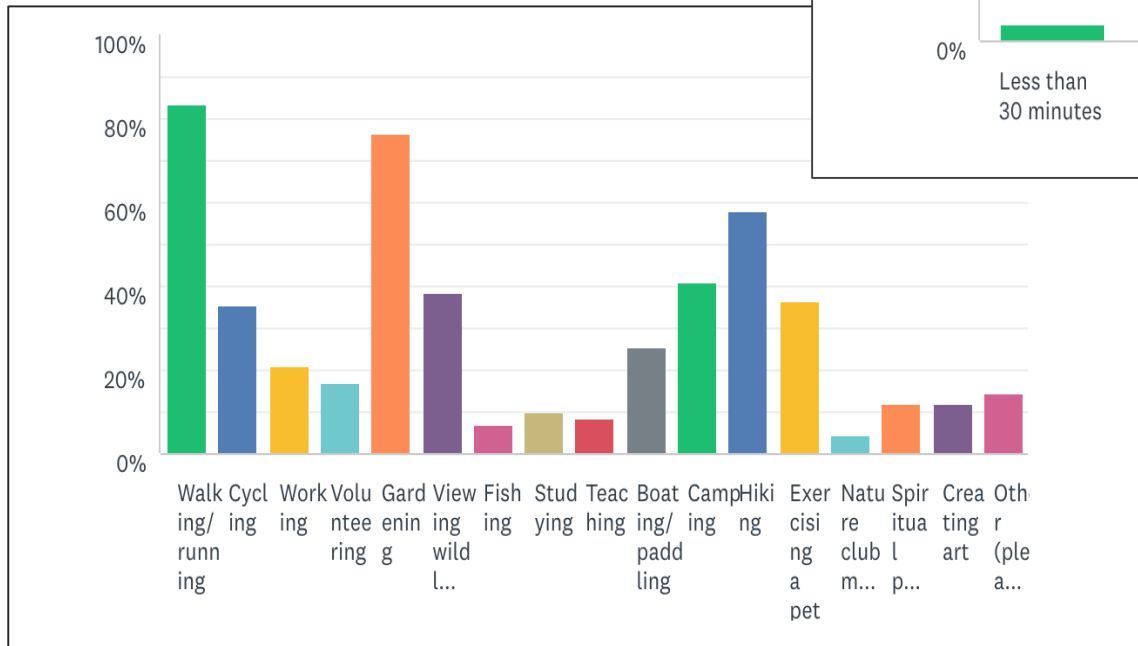
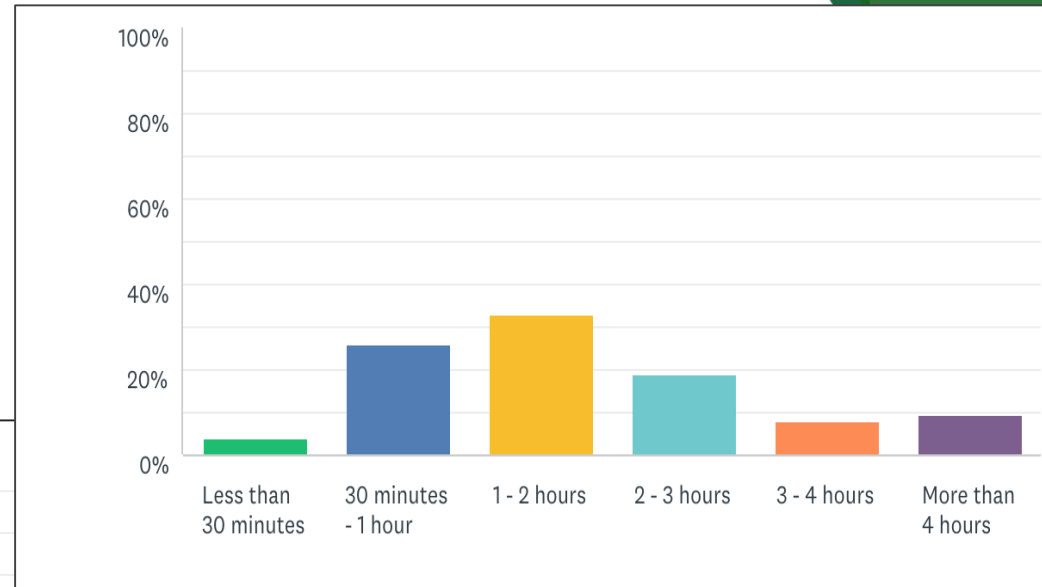




Every Saanich resident actively enhancing our natural world by 2025.

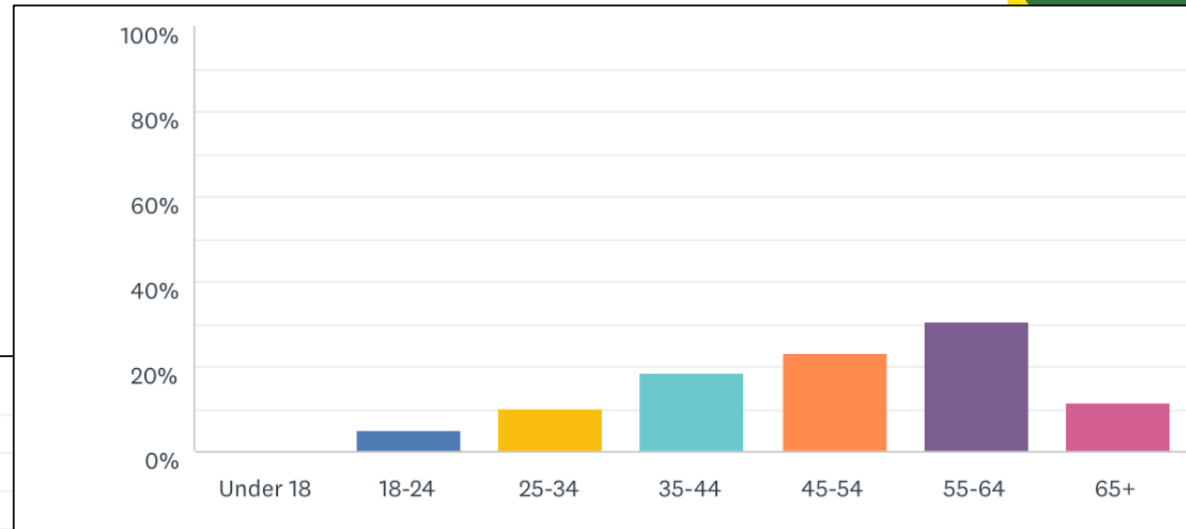
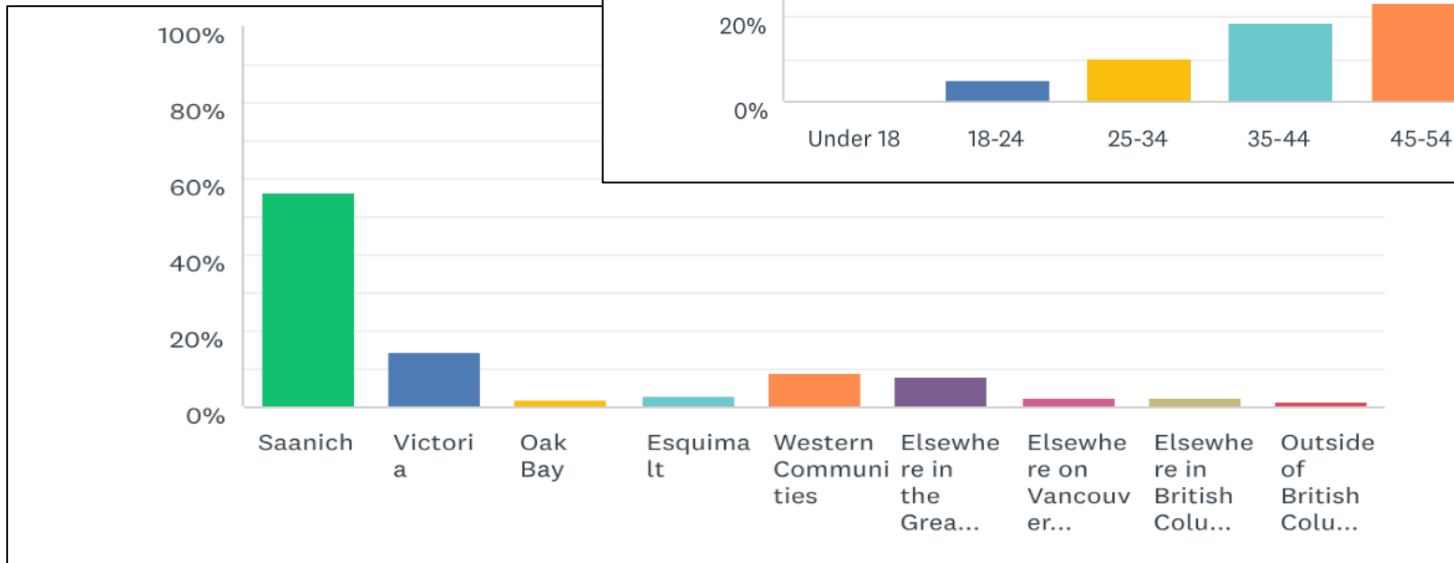
How Much and Doing What?

- Time spent outside
- Activities
- Trying new activities



Our Respondents

- Age
- Residents
- Participants



What does Nature Mean to You?

- Life
- Happiness/ Joy
- Peace/ Calming
- Connections
- Freedom
- Beauty/ Bliss
- Balance
- Grounded
- Clarity
- Everything
- Health
- Home



SECTIONS

- Home
- Island News
- Sawatsky Sign-Off
- Weather
- NEWS LINKS
- News Tips
- Tour De Rock 2019
- In Pictures
- NewLook Eyewear
- Saanich Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Advertisement

CTV Vancouver Island | Natural Intelligence - Saanich Parks, Recreation & Community Services

Natural Intelligence

Natural Intelligence

Hike The Island: Vic Derman Park

Today's hike is Vic Derman Park, previously known as Christmas Hill Park, located in Saanich.

<https://vancouverisland.ctvnews.ca/more/saanich-parks>



<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/natural-intelligence.html>

Building Natural Intelligence

Every Saanich resident actively enhancing our natural world by 2025.

George/Colquitz
Watershed Special
Management Area



What's next?





The Corporation of the District of Saanich

REPORT

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

From: Tiana Solares, Senior Manager - Recreation

Date: 10/23/2020

Subject: October 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

Golf Course: From May to the end of August, the golf course has set monthly records on golf revenues, in spite of not having tournaments, a clubhouse, and putting and chipping greens. A Request for Proposals for Cedar Hill Golf Course Services Review is posted to close October 1, from which a consultant will be hired with a draft report due by December 15. This will assist the District in setting the future direction of the golf and food services operations for the golf course. Fall Greens aeration is complete and drainage work will commence next week.

Tennis programs and court rentals are back in full-swing at CHRC. New Covid-19 protocols are in place to ensure the safety of the Public and Saanich Staff while enjoying tennis lessons or recreational play. The new reserved drop-in system for Adult Table Tennis has been a success with many of the regular players returning to the Cedar Hill Gymnasium. Friday morning Pickleball lessons are underway as well and feedback from participants has been very positive.

Registered Fitness programs resumed on September 11. Again, participant feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and grateful for the much needed return to regular exercise programs, including Functional Fitness, Osteofit and Gentlefit. The new system of reserved drop-ins for aerobics and low impact fitness classes resumed on September 15. Instructors that had a following of fitness fans pre-COVID are seeing full classes again.

The weight room sessions are showing a steady increase in participants. Additional sessions are being offered in the evenings and Saturday and Sunday mornings with the expansion of facility hours at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre this fall. Older Adult and Wellness programs continue to carefully restart. Zumba Gold, Yoga and Meditation classes are running with small class sizes and physical distancing.

The pottery studio at Cedar Hill is up and running again with smaller class sizes and options for adults, youth, children and families. All Pottery classes and programs are full with wait-lists. The Pottery Open Studio and Art Open Studio Programs have been changed from a full-access model to a block-booking model with some flexible additional time options which is providing the centre with more control over who is in the building and when, along with some great information about studio use as we move forward.

Gordon Head Community Recreation Centre

Over the course of September, Gordon Head gradually re-introduced additional programs to the centre. For example, the licensed Preschool program. Although participation numbers are not as high as during a normal year, this was not unexpected and the 60% fill rate to start is quite encouraging. Our two Nature Preschools also resumed and after four days of cancelation due to air quality issues, has been running as expected, with a higher fill rate of 80%

The transition from Summer Day Camps to fall programs is well underway. Returning staff and contractors are happy to be back in the Centre doing what they love. Program instructors as well as participants are adapting to new procedures. Registration for Early Childhood and Youth programs is slowly building as families become comfortable with safety measures in place. The contracted Music Together classes remain full with waitlists, and Martial Arts, Dance, and Sport programs remain popular.

In the pool, Waterfit has continued to remain very popular, and in September we increased the number of classes from six to eight, all of which are full. With the successful trial of swim lessons over the summer, we are now offering swim lessons six days a week to the public with adapted access to change rooms. We are now able to offer change room time to lesson participants both before and after classes. Feedback from parents overall has been positive, with families reporting they feel grateful for the sense of normalcy.

Gordon Head is one of the few aquatic facilities to offer hot tub access, with capacity for up to six people with appropriate social distancing. Sunday Family and Leisure swims have been a success with 40 people in the pool at a time and 100% fill rates. Despite initial concerns that patrons may find it difficult to abide by the occupancy rates of each pool, lifeguard staff have reported that patrons are being even more courteous to others than before and ensuring everyone has access to the pool areas they want at least once during the swim. As with all COVID-related safety measures, staff continues to monitor social distancing in the pool carefully.

On the facility side, staff are looking into the possible installation of new acoustic panels, intended to reduce noise, on the north side of the Air Source Heat Pump. While the new heat pump has made a significant difference for our building, a few complaints have been received from neighbouring residents. Preparation is also underway to get the trailer ready for our Admin Office Expansion. The trailer will need retrofitting to allow for power, computer access and a home for seven administrative staff.

G.R. Pearkes Community Recreation Centre

Operations at GR Pearkes is well underway as we begin into the (traditionally) busy fall season. All service areas within GR Pearkes have resumed, except for Tradeshows, which we will not be continuing during COVID.

This provides the Division with an opportunity to explore different uses of the field house; Recreation's recent Market Analysis indicates that dryfloor and gym space are in the shortest supply in Saanich Recreation Centres. The fieldhouse is typically dedicated to Tradeshows/Large events during the prime weekend days. Not running these bookings this year will give staff a unique opportunity to evaluate demand for this dryfloor space over the Fall/Winter season. Currently we are working with our user-groups to finalize the fall schedule.

The Slab Design Project continues with our consultant team. With the COVID shutdown we experienced some delays in our project timelines however, at this stage we are still estimating our completion date will not change. Ice is planned to return to the Gold Rink for September 2021. This project also includes replacing our aging elevator with one that will increase accessibility to the second level Fitness Centre.

As the Fire Department has been temporarily relocated from the Saanich #1 Fire Station to operate in the Flipside Youth centre, we have had to move our Accessible Parking area. With our partners in Parks we have found a permanent solution which will increase accessibility for our centre in the long run. Several parking spaces in the main lot, along the center median will be converted into Accessible Parking Stalls. Parks will be commencing this work in early October.

Drop-in rates for Ice activities remains high, much of the time filling at 100%. Dryfloor (fitness and weights) remains low, but continues to climb as the community builds their level of trust in the protocols we have in place.

Saanich Commonwealth Place

As we shift in to fall weather, staff are working to adapt procedures to ensure that we are maintaining physical distancing protocols for patrons in the centre. We have begun an educational campaign to encourage patrons to show up just in time for their activity to avoid congestion in the building.

Weight room participation has seen a marked increase already this fall with an average of 163 people per day in the first two weeks of September. Registered Fitness classes are very popular and many are full with a wait list; additional sections of our most popular classes have been added to meet demand. Waterfit continues to sell out during the popular daytime sessions and evening sessions are growing in popularity. SPC is also offering 14 reserved drop in fitness classes per week which are very appreciated by our patrons.

We will be resuming our Kinesiology services this Fall as well as two of our popular Island Health funded programs; Take Heart and Seniors Social and Movement.

High Performance Clubs are preparing their plans to move to two (and eventually three) swimmers per lane starting September 28. This will allow more athletes to return to the pool and ease financial burden for the Clubs. Saanich Water Polo School will begin their 3x/week rental of the Competition Pool starting Sept 29. Our popular SwimFit and Masters programs will be resuming in late September as well.

Aquatic Programmers are working on proposals for Family Swims and Swimming Lessons (modified) to resume at SCP in November.

Staff met with representatives from SD63 to prepare for the return of Saanich programs and rentals at Royal Oak Middle School in early October. Staff are in contact with Cordova Bay 55+ Association to discuss their return to activity as well.

The Bio-Mass Boiler Replacement Project continues to move forward. Scans of the bedrock and underground utilities were recently completed to assess impacts on construction. The Steering Committee met in mid-September with our new facility Manager and Recreation Senior Manager attending for the first time.

Prepared by:  _____

Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation

Approved by:  _____

Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation



PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

REPORT TO: Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee

DATE: October 1, 2020

FROM: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – October, 2020

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

Maintenance Section:

Ongoing maintenance services include washroom cleaning, refuse collection, camper cleanups. COVID has increased demands on park washrooms and refuse has increased substantially.

Maintenance crews continue to do needed maintenance procedures on all of our sports fields. All sports fields are ready for play and play is slowly resuming at decreased levels. We have marked all corners of our soccer fields in preparation for club play.

Irrigation staff are busy doing repairs to systems as they happen. We are installing a new drip irrigation system in Horner Park for the new trees to be planted. 3500 Blanchard St irrigation will be installed where possible this fall. We are starting to shut systems down as the wet and cool weather is upon us.

Homeless camp clean ups are increasing and they are dealt with as they are reported using the Parks Management and Control Bylaw and established protocols. Illegal dumping in parks is unfortunately ongoing and growing requiring more staff time and resources.

The Parks mechanic shop is busy repairing equipment and doing preventative maintenance as needed.

Construction Section

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

- **Horner Park** – The Horner Park renovation project started in the first week of July and is well underway. As part of the project, the construction crew is renovating the playground, sports court and central pathway and installing a new youth area, solar lighting (along the central path), a drinking fountain, an interpretive sign and additional looping asphalt and gravel pathways. Close to 40 new trees will be planted in the park. As part of the Washroom Operations

and Capital Plan, a portion of the park building will be renovated in conjunction with the park upgrades, so that visitors have seasonal access to an already existing washroom. We anticipate reopening the park in mid to late October.

- **Tennis Court Resurfacing Program** – All tennis courts planned for resurfacing work in 2020 have now been completed. Parks included in this program this year were: Maltwood Park, Rutledge Park and Cadboro-Gyro Park with the last one completed most recently.
- **Quadrant 1 Trail Resurfacing Program** – work is being completed on gravel trails within Quadrant 1 (South Saanich). Most recently work has been completed at Gorge Park. In addition, crews have also completed supplementary trail work at Broadmead Park which is in Quadrant 3.
- **Parks ID Signage** – The crew has been installing new park ID signs across the Parks system. We are planning on completing a total of 25 new park ID signs in 2020 of which 15 parks have been completed to date.
- **Hampton Park** – Work on renovation of the main parking lot in the park will commence shortly. The project will include enlarging of the existing parking area with additional parking stalls as well as additional exit/entrance to improve the traffic flow. Work will be conducted in parallel to the sidewalk and boulevard improvements being implemented by the Engineering and Public Works Department on the Hampton Road.
- **Bridge and Staircase Replacement Program** – Our crew will be starting this month on the bridge deck replacement in the Bowker Creek Greenway located on Wordsworth Street in the vicinity of Browning Park and the beach access staircase replacement on Tudor Avenue.

Horticulture Section

Horticulture staff continue maintaining seasonal beds and as the rains begin in late September we will be removing annual plantings and preparing beds to plant spring flowering bulbs. Turf mowing will be winding down and crews are completing some turf renovations in September and October before our leafing program starts. Calls for service to neighbourhood traffic circles are coming in less frequently now and we will begin doing proactive pruning and maintenance at some of the 450 sites.

Urban Forestry Section

Urban Forestry continues to have another extremely busy year, with 1150 customer calls to date as of mid-September. Over 850 of these calls are pruning requests for either boulevard or park trees.

The section continues to provide support to Engineering and Public Works on civil plan reviews, and construction supervision around public trees. Staff also continues to support our tree bylaw team due to their high volume of permits. The arboriculture crews are focused primarily on getting through the backlog of Requests for Service, before we get into the winter storm months.

Natural Areas Section

The boulevard and park tree watering program has been shut down for the season now that the cooler weather and fall rains are coming in. The first big tree delivery is at the end of October so we are finalizing the tree list to fill up the delivery truck; this includes 40 trees to be planted at the Cedar Hill Golf course. We hope to plant about 40 trees per year over the next five years in that park to enhance and beautify the buffer zones between the golf course and the very busy trail system around the park.

The invasive species crew continues to be busy managing Yellow flag iris, and Purple loosestrife along Colquitz River. We co-hosted a Yellow flag iris workshop on September 23rd to teach other local land managers and some of our staff another technique to help eradicate the species.

To celebrate National Tree Day we gave away close to 200 hundred, 2-3 year old Garry Oak, Douglas fir, Western red Cedar and Sitka spruce trees in one gallon pots. This was our first annual "Plant & Post" program where we offered up trees to residents to plant on their private property; once the tree is planted, we hope they will post a photo to share on social media. We obtain hundreds of trees from the Garry Oak Meadow Preservation Society (GOMPS) and the Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society (FBSES) each year.



This tree give away is a major boost to our Climate Emergency Accelerated Action Tree Planting program.

Also, to celebrate National Tree Day, crews and Council planted about 20 Western red Cedar trees at the Colquitz River restoration site, just behind Copley East Park. This is the first step in restoring the area disturbed by the creek restoration, fish habitat enhancement project that Saanich Parks, Public Works Storm & Waste Water, and Peninsula Streams Society worked on in August of this year. More trees and shrubs will be planted later in the fall/winter.

Pulling Together volunteer groups are very active with crews supporting several groups on a weekly basis. The Natural Areas team is working closely with our Park Stewardship Coordinator as the Volunteer Lead Stewards are sending in their plant requests for the upcoming planting season.

Vegetation control crews are working hard to take the pressure off the Urban Forestry crews as Requests for Service continue to roll in. Lots of sight-line vegetation requests are coming in. Some crew members are shifting over to the Small Tree Maintenance (STM) program to catch up on pruning, mulching, de-caging, etc on boulevard and park trees. Home owners are encouraged to store their tree water bags over the winter to be re-used in the spring.

The new Columbine Way cross-walk and trail construction project is almost complete by the Public Works crews; this site will see a significant tree and shrub planting project

happen early in the fall to green up the slopes for erosion control. There will also be a cedar split rail fence going up to tie in with the existing restoration area along Columbine Way.

We have two large cedar split rail fencing projects this fall at Haro Woods and Mount Douglas Parks. The Haro Woods project will help to deactivate non-designated trails and help restore areas with native trees and shrubs. This is an action from the Haro Woods management plan. The trail from the Mount Douglas upper parking lot to the summit lookout will also receive some trail-side fencing to help restore some high-activity Garry Oak rocky outcrop areas and sites that have had extensive invasive plant (mostly Scotch broom) removal. Our goal is to close many of the non-designated trails and restore with native plants and flowers.

Stay tuned for details on Tree Appreciation Day to be celebrated on November 7th at Mount Douglas beach parking lot area under the big Cedar and Douglas fir trees. The event will be Covid friendly (if public) by having several planting pockets where small groups can maintain physical distancing while planting trees and shrubs.

Park Planning and Design Section

Washroom Plan – A Request for Information (RFI) is currently out to prospective manufacturers of pre-fabricated washroom buildings. Staff will use this information to determine what the market has to offer and design a Request for Proposals (RFP) appropriately. Staff anticipate bringing a recommendation to Council early in 2021.

Cedar Hill Park Management Plan – The Management Plan for Cedar Hill Park is in its final stages of development (just undergoing final revision and layout). The plan is anticipated to go to Council in mid October for approval. For more information please visit the project web-page.

<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-culture/parks/projects-in-saanich-parks/active-projects/cedar-hill-park.html>

Hampton Park – Engineering crews have started work on their part of the project. A rock wall between the parking lot and Hampton Road is nearing completion. Engineering's Storm and Wastewater crew is about to begin replacing the old sewer line along the north end of the park. Parks crews will install a new paved trail in that location once the SWW are finished. This trail will connect the existing asphalt trail in the park to Seaton near the sport court and tennis courts. The new parking lot will create a one-way in and one-way out configuration and increased pedestrian access should improve the safety of the area. We anticipate the work be completed by the end of the year. Parks is also planning to use soil cells under the concrete plaza to provide adequate soil volume for the feature tree planned for the plaza. This will be the District's first use of soil cells on one of our own projects. Soil cells allow for planting larger trees as there is space underground for good root system development.

Interpretive Sign Program – Work has started on a new interpretive sign that will feature the **History of Horner Park and Neighbourhood**. Parks has partnered with the Mount Tolmie Community Association on this sign who researched the information for the sign. The back side of the sign will provide a new Community Notice Board. At **Haro Woods Park** orientation signs with maps for way-finding, and an interpretive

sign featuring information about First Nations, Finnerty Creek, the forest and wildlife will be installed this fall.

McMinn Bike Park – Suitable soil material was recently sourced in Langford and starting the week of Sept 28, 500 cubic yards of material will be trucked to the site and stockpiled over the winter. Construction of the bike park will begin early next spring and be completed by early summer.

George Tripp Youth Park – The license of occupation has recently been signed by both Saanich and BC Hydro. Saanich is now the legal occupier of the land and is in the process of soliciting proposals from qualified bike park designers for design and construction services. Youth and Community engagement will continue once a consultant has been hired. We are planning for an opening of the youth park in summer, 2021. In the meantime Saanich forces have been tidying up the site.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan Review - Parks is presenting a 'check-in' for Cuthbert Holmes / Tillicum Parks since the Management Plan was completed in 2015 after extensive public consultation. A lot has happened since the Plan was approved by council. Parks has completed a number of the actions identified in the Plan, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) has almost finished the McKenzie Interchange Project. Details about the interchange were unknown when the parks' management plan was written, and it has significantly changed the parks' northern edge. The check-in is a series of virtual display boards that outline the work Parks has already done, and upcoming projects. It also gives an over-view of the park-related aspects of the interchange project, and the positive ecological features that have been incorporated into it. The Check-in will be advertised on the Saanich website and social media, and via summary display boards posted at strategic locations within the parks and at Pearkes Arena. The display boards will show project highlights, and invite readers to visit the website to view materials with more detailed information. Comments will be invited via phone or email.

Community Development and Business Systems Section

Park Stewardship:

Volunteers continue to be active with 52 Lead Stewards (at 41 park sites), and 11 Park Ambassador volunteers while adhering to Covid-19 protocols. Many volunteer groups who took a break over the dry summer months are back in their parks, and are looking forward to ordering native plants, and planting areas that have been cleared of invasive plants. Natural Areas staff continue to provide the much appreciated support to Pulling Together volunteer in the field.

We continue to respond to the many new volunteer inquires that were made during our Covid-19 volunteer closure. A busy season ahead is expected while we continue to support our current volunteer groups, plan new stewardship projects, respond to volunteer inquiries, including school groups, train new volunteers, and support a variety of external and internal initiatives (ex. Natural Intelligence, Great Victoria NatureHood, Gorge Waterway Initiative).



Volunteers planning fall projects with staff at Bow and Beckwith Parks

Park user groups:

Sport User groups - resumption of activities and permits continue into fall

As expected, there has been an uptick in sport resumptions and permits in Saanich Parks going into the fall. This now includes our own Saanich recreation and community services programming and school district partners (SD 61 and 63) who run sports academies and physical education classes. Soccer season is just getting started while Softball and Baseball “fall ball” seasons will wind up by Thanksgiving. The process to resume and issue permits continues to evolve and is complex due to COVID-19. Saanich continues to work closely with user groups to guide them through this process to operate safely and in compliance with the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Orders.

Hampton Park artificial turfs replacement update: Saanich Parks, in partnership with Gorge Soccer Association (GSA), are replacing the Hampton Park artificial turf fields. The project is well underway and should wrap up mid-October, which is 3 – 4 weeks behind schedule. This delay has been due to scheduling issues with the supplier because of COVID-19. This delay has created some program scheduling issues for Gorge Soccer to start their soccer season, but Saanich Parks is working closely with them to provide other fields temporarily until the project completes.

Event of note - Zach Downey memorial games, Sep 17 – 20 at Layritz Park:

The Mariner’s baseball club, who train and play at Layritz Park, held the annual Zach Downey memorial games September 17 – 20. These are annual games to remember Mariner’s athlete, Zach Downey, who died of cancer while he was a player (teenager). The memorial games have been going on for a number of years at Layritz at this time of year. The activities were modified this year due to COVID-19 and Saanich Parks staff worked closely with the Mariner’s organizers to ensure the event established a COVID-19 safety plan and followed the orders of the Provincial Health Officer on gathering limits. We are glad to report that the event had no issues and commend the Mariners on their efforts. It was reported the final game was a close one at 7-6!