

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

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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 listen to this meeting by telephone call **1-833-353-8610** and use code **9232581** during the time noted above.

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**\*\*\* Territorial Acknowledgement & Inclusivity Statement \*\*\***

- 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
  - February 24, 2021
  
- 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
  
- 3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & OLDER ADULT STRATEGIC AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**
  - Staff presentation and report (attachment)
  
- 4. OLDER ADULTS STRATEGY – YEAR THREE REPORT**
  - Staff presentation (attachment)
  
- 5. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY – YEAR FIVE REPORT**
  - Staff presentation (attachment)
  
- 6. CUTHBERT HOLMES RESTORATION**
  - Staff presentation (materials to be circulated)
  
- 7. DIVISION UPDATES**
  - For information (attachments)

**\* Adjournment \***

**Next Meeting: April 28, 2021**

**In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Tania Douglas at 475-5494 ext. 3505 or [tania.douglas@saanich.ca](mailto:tania.douglas@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.**

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**February 24, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin (via telephone), Kathleen Burton (4:25pm), Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth, Annie Djiotsa (via telephone), Lyndsay Edgar (4:40pm via telephone), Dexter Owen

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Gary Darrah, Manager of Park Planning and Development; Adriane Pollard, Manager of Environmental Services (via telephone); Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Leigh Campbell, Kyle Danielewicz, Amy-Jade Louie

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### Minutes

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Owen: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held January 27, 2021, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair stated that:

- In lieu of having BikeFest this year we are looking at holding a Saanich Geoquest event which will send residents to different areas of Saanich (eg. public art areas, trails, heritage houses, special ecosystem areas etc.). The participants would take a photo of the assigned number in the area and enter to win prizes based upon how many areas they visited.
- The food truck concept pilot project discussion will be going to Council in April.
- Park usage has increased significantly. For example, last June it was 79% over the baseline for BC.
- The Parks field guide was just launched.

The Chair asked committee members to send in ideas of special places that residents can visit during the Geoquest event. It is hoped that there will be about 20 areas to explore.

### RESILIENT SAANICH ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Manager of Environmental Services presented information about Resilient Saanich and a new Technical Committee that was appointed by Council, and noted they are at the very beginning of the process to examine the environmental policy framework of existing, improved and new bylaws, policies, strategies, programs and procedures.

The following was noted:

- The technical committee (RSTC) is comprised of up to ten appointed experts and are supported by an appointed Council liaison, a clerk and staff liaisons as needed.
- Members of the technical committee are paid an honorarium as they are professionals who are expected to provide deliverables.
- Staff would like committee feedback on the vision, principles, goals and objectives and also how committee members would like to be involved in providing feedback.

The following committee comments and responses to comments are noted:

- Vision:
  - The vision is clear and well laid-out; the completion date of 2030 is ambitious.
  - Question raised whether the marine shoreline will be included in the vision as it is not showing to be in the scope.
  - Question raised whether “restoration” should be added to the vision.
- Proposed principles:
  - Committee members appreciate the respecting Indigenous knowledge and land uses principle.
  - Suggestion that principles #6 & #7 appear to conflict with each other. Staff described them to mean that as we go forward, we need to look behind as well; acknowledge and learn from the past as we move forward.
  - Principle #9 should start with “Continue to”.
  - More definition is needed for principle #10; (eg. working in partnership, diverse interests, achieve outcomes). What does this all mean?
- Proposed Goals:
  - Some members felt the goals are very broad and vague; what is the specific goal?
  - Some members felt the goals were good and need to be vague to encompass all. If goals are too specific then it becomes too challenging.
  - If they are aiming for measurable goals, these are not measurable.
- Proposed Objectives:
  - “Restoration” and “Biodiversity” could be added.
  - The objectives read like principles; how would objective #2 be measured.
  - The wording in #4 could imply that Saanich is not transparent.

Final comment made that the “next steps” page with the white font on a multi-coloured background is not readable. Font needs to be black.

The Manager of Environmental Services thanked committee members for their comments and noted she is happy to receive further feedback.

## **PARKS WASHROOM OPERATING AND CAPITAL PLAN FOR 2021**

The Senior Manager of Parks noted that a report recently went to Council regarding funding needed for 25 new washrooms. Council supports this and seven washrooms will be done this year. The following responses to questions are noted:

- Four washroom conversions were done last year; meaning washrooms that were for the sole use for clubs will now be available for all. Twelve conversions are to be done in total.
- A large request for proposals for prefab washrooms will be sent to Tender.
- Washrooms will need to meet accessibility design code.
- Permits are needed for some of the conversions in order to bring structures to code.
- There has been a significant increase in vandalism since the COVID. Vandalism events are built into the budget.
- The washrooms will be gender neutral and for use by all.
- There has been much higher usage of toilets. Some existing washrooms are on septic some use vaults/chambers, and some are attached to the sewer system.
- User groups have been in charge of maintenance for their designated washrooms in the past. Washrooms will be maintained by Saanich, and funds for this will be built into the budget.

## **OUTDOOR STRUCTURES IN PARKS (referral from Council)**

The Manager of Park Planning and Development provided information about this item that was referred from Council to this committee. The report dated September 25, 2020 from the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services to Council titled, “Outdoor Structures in Parks” was provided to committee members for information prior to discussion. The Chair

noted that there was a lot of debate about this issue at the Council meeting and she asked committee to consider whether a pilot project for outdoor structures in parks should be implemented at this time.

A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Placing outdoor structures in parks could be a magnet for people looking for shelter.
- Question raised about who would control, patrol and address issues that could arise.
- Question raised about an appropriate location to try a pilot and what would the structure look like. Suggestion made that Cadboro/Gyro park could be a good area as there is an existing picnic table area. Saanich does have large tents that could be anchored over a picnic area. This would be simple and the materials are already on hand.
- Suggestion made that a structure similar to one at Elk Lake may also be appropriate.
- Police have recommended that a structure should just have a roof only and no sides.
- Timing is an issue; it would be more appropriate to look at this in the future.
- It sounds like a good idea for the future but it would encourage people to meet.
- Shade is needed in some areas, and a suggestion was made that appropriate landscaping solutions such as planting of trees could help, rather than installing an outdoor structure that will encourage people to gather.
- A structure may result in graffiti, drinking, and garbage, along with congregation.
- A tent could be stolen or blown away by strong winds.
- There are positive and negative effects to having a pilot project at this time.

The Chair noted that the majority of committee members are not in support of a pilot and agreed that now is not the right time to look at installing outdoor structures in parks. It would be a more appropriate to consider this in the future when people may congregate again.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW**

The Manager of Park Planning and Development noted the Parks capital budget will be presented to Council soon and he provided project descriptions and associated budgets.

The following was noted:

- There are 56 playgrounds and this year equipment will be replaced and/or installed at Allenby, and Normandy parks.
- One grass field at Lochside, Braefoot or Hampton park will be upgraded.
- Courts at Allenby and Sierra parks are scheduled for resurfacing. There are complaints about dogs in tennis courts and it was noted that a temporary Bylaw Officer is patrolling parks three days a week to check on COVID orders compliance. Signage about dogs will also be erected as they can cause damage to court surfaces.
- There are three major irrigation systems to replace and these will be phased over the next three years. A contingency fund is needed for these projects.
- Staff inspect bridges on an ongoing basis. Curtis Point will have some shoreline enhancements done to protect natural features and allow public to use the area with limited impacts. The Garry oaks are struggling in this area and impact from all users must be reduced. Staff may look at getting people down to the water more safely.
- Trail projects are completed based on a quadrant maintenance program. Every four years all 100+ km of trails are inspected and repaired as needed.
  - A discussion occurred about options other than gravel surfaces on trails in Panama Flats as accessibility can be impeded for trail users that rely on wheelchairs or scooters. Staff noted that this is a floodplain area and the new plan is to move the trail by about 30 metres to the east when they redo the loop system. Finer materials washes away and it is less expensive to renew gravel than to build a boardwalk knowing that there are longer term plans for trail relocation.
  - Comment made that hard packing gravel would be helpful for users.
- Parks renewal program will implement a few key actions in the Cedar Hill Park Management Plan (the plan anticipates implementing actions each year going forward). Horner and Tolmie parks were renewed recently.

- Streetscape renovation funds are used to build horticultural shrub and garden beds in various areas in the municipality. Saanich partners with community members on the maintenance and establishment of many of the displays.
  - It was noted that many of the Saanich gardeners create their own designs and a suggestion was made that small signage on each garden could be erected to let the public know this.
  - Committee expressed appreciation for both the pollinator and edible gardens that exist throughout the district.
- Natural areas restoration involve several staff and are planned in partnership with community volunteers and stewardship groups. Haro Woods is one big project in the plan this year along with planning work for restoration in Rithets Bog, Cedar Hill Park and some creek restoration.
- A major goal of Council is to increase the tree canopy and have no net canopy loss in both public and private areas of Saanich.
  - It was noted that a new external funding opportunity was just created to support this initiative.
- There are many buildings in Saanich that require maintenance. New washroom facilities will be installed in some locations. Playfair park washroom is on septic and will be tied into the sewer system.
- Mount Douglas Park has ongoing erosion and drainage issues to maintain; ongoing repairs are made to trails. A pedestrian bridge will be installed by the creek with a new trail to allow visitors to get close to the creek in a safe way. Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society are providing some funding for this project.

Responses to questions from committee were noted as follows:

- The parks capital budget is spread around geographically to ensure various quadrants are addressed.
- Fountains for water bottles (that have the motion detector capability) area very expensive. Some fountains have been ordered.
  - There are other styles of fountains that can be activated via a press from a knee or with a foot pedal.
  - Staff noted fountains are closed at the moment as they are not being cleaned.
- Parks is aiming to improve meeting youth needs.
- Staff will meet on site with a contractor for the George Tripp bike park and come back to this committee with the design.
- It was suggested that staff focus on trying to make trails as accessible as possible, specifically at Panama Flats.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# Report

**To:** Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee  
**From:** Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services  
**Date:** 3/24/2021  
**Subject:** Report on Youth Development and Older Adult Strategic and Implementation Plans

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive this report for information.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee on the Older Adult and Youth Development Strategic and Implementation plans.

### BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (YDS) 2015-2020: 2020 marked the fifth and final year for the YDS, but it is in no way a stopping point for programs that have been developed in response to the six YDS initiatives: Increased Participation, Collaboration, Risk and Outdoor Play, Social Wellbeing, Youth Spaces and Communication. Successful programs have been developed in all of these areas, and we now have a full complement of meaningful activities that are geared specifically toward youth. Additionally, these programs act as a continuum to the school-age programs that have always been offered by the department.

It is important to acknowledge that much of the work done to respond to these YDS initiatives is progressive in its approach and builds upon the traditional recreation programming model. While there are certainly sport and physical literacy activities- the brunt of YDS offerings focus on low-cost or no-cost mental health, social inclusion, job readiness, homework help, creativity, nature exploration and providing safe spaces for marginalized youth (i.e. Low Income, BIPOC, LGBTQ2+). Resoundingly, these topics are what Saanich youth tell us they crave. The global pandemic only heightened the demand by youth and their families who were now without the structure of the school day to help guide their development. With that understanding, the Provincial Health Orders identified an essential need to continue providing these types of programs, even if the numbers had to be smaller and the distances between friends greater.

Now that the initial implementation phase of the YDS is complete, Community Services intends to move into a period of maintenance in order to support the newly established programs. We feel that at this time we have adequate youth participation, as well as collaboration from local services organizations and the school districts, to continue generating meaningful relevant programming for the community. In addition, we anticipate the development of a new departmental strategy coming forward for Parks, Recreation and Community Services within the next two years. Reflection and evaluation of Youth Services programs will be a component of that strategic work.

For more detailed examples of the 2020's youth programs, please see Attachment A.

OLDER ADULT STRATEGY (OAS) 2017-2022: With full funding in place in May 2020 Saanich was able to complete or take action on a number of goals from January to March 2020. Many of these were challenged due to the COVID pandemic, but staff continuously retooled the programs to fit within COVID safety parameters, and the outcomes are listed in Attachment A.

Several notable successes occurred this year such as the “HeaArts Together” program that provided free art-making kits to assisted living facilities. Residents were encouraged to paint a clay or wooden heart with a personal message of togetherness, and then the hearts were displayed publically and in an online gallery. The messaging allowed those who were the most isolated to engage in COVID safe community activity. Along a similar vein, Community Services coordinated live performance to take place on the grounds of assisted living facilities so that residents could be treated to a community concert right from the safety of their own window. For those who could safely get outside, the guided “Gentle Walk and Talk” program has been an easy way to get exercise and reduce the social isolation of quarantine.

Earlier in the year the NEAT (Neighbors Engaging in Activities Together) was in full swing; meeting residents in their neighbourhoods and coordinating trips to locations that would otherwise be hard to reach. Staff was also supporting programs for elders at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre in much the same way. Staff would meet with the group, hear their requests, and then coordinate and provide the desired activity.

Several OAS goals for wellness have been completed, such as the walkways at Horner and Lambrick Park, and the “Seniors Social and Movement Class” which was designed to provide social, exercise and recreation opportunities for adults with mild to moderate cognitive decline. Creative opportunities are always popular with residents and the “Voices in Motion” and “Community Art Circle” both had a strong following before being paused for safety. These programs can restart easily when restrictions lift.

We know that communication is crucial to wellness and connectedness for Older Adults and as such, emphasis has been given to support communication and outreach strategies that are specifically geared to the community. The Community Services webpages have been populated with “at-home” activities like Brain Busters and Healthy Recipes, and also provides information on “What to Expect” when you are able to visit Recreation Community Centres again. The CONNECTIONS guide is being produced with information specific to older adults on programming, COVID requirements, partner resources and transportation opportunities. The Parks Washroom strategy is complete and the plan provides for clean washrooms in key areas to encourage residents to get out and get active without fear of not having an appropriate facility when they need it. The Parks web pages also host up-to-date information on washroom amenities and changes that have occurred due to COVID. Finally, the Older Adult Signage Strategy for Recreation Community Centres was completed at the end of 2020. It has many recommendations that will enhance navigability for older adults who visit our sites, and is set for implementation beginning in 2021.

For more detailed examples of the 2020’s older adult programs, please see Attachment A.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

At this time the Youth Development Strategy is fully funded and has sufficient resources to continue providing the services described within the plan. Additional resource and non-discretionary requests will be brought forward in a timely way to keep up with expenses and inflation.

Full funding for the Older Adult Strategy was not approved until mid-year 2019. While much progress was made after the allocation was received, COVID19 arrived in the spring of 2020 and created significant barriers to service delivery. Saanich’s older adult population is currently undergoing COVID19

vaccinations in our community, and we are ready to restart programming once Provincial Health Orders allow. At this time, the program is awaiting Council's funding decision for the fiscal year 2021.

### **STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

The implementation of the OAS and YDS directly support the Saanich Council Strategic Plan 2019-2023 under the goal of "Community Wellbeing". The initiatives that comprise both the OAS and YDS actively promote that "diversity, respect and inclusion is vital" and that we take action to "acknowledge the diversity of our community and changing demographics, and ensure the inclusion of all by adapting Saanich plans appropriately". We also affirm that through the outcomes of the OAS that we will "continue support to the Age-friendly Initiative"

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services recognizes and values the diversity of the community and endeavors to provide meaningful activities that enrich the lives of resident no matter their age, ethnicity, orientation, gender identity, national origin, ability or financial means. The pursuit of these community-driven strategic plans has been a meaningful journey that has laid a solid foundation of participant-driven practice for the department. COVID-19 has only enhanced our commitment to providing these crucial services to those need them.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

A. 2020 Highlights of YDS and OAS Goals, Actions and Outcomes



**2020 HIGHLIGHTS  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (YDS) and OLDER ADULT STRATEGY (OAS)  
GOALS, ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Increase Participation</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Engage youth in decisions about program and service design.	Directly involve youth in program and service design.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth Programmers engage participants at all three teen centres, and Cedar Hill Friday Night on an ongoing basis to help evaluate and create new and exciting programs</li> <li>- Specific programs resulting from these engagements include: Breakout Adventures Youth Summer Camps, Outdoor Adventure Club, Art Workshops Series such as Intro to Watercolour and Needle Felting, Job Readiness like Low Cost First Aid &amp; Food Safe Certificates</li> </ul>
	Create new introductory-level programs at recreation centres and parks to encourage youth to try something new in friendly environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- From 2016-2020 we have seen an increase in introductory programs available including: Healthy Cooking Programs at GHRC + Job Skills Readiness workshops, Intro to Karate Programs Introductory classes for a variety of art mediums with Cedar Hill.</li> <li>-Programmers will continue to make this a priority for youth in 2021 and beyond</li> </ul>
	Initiate discussions with Aquatics and Fitness Programmers and Centre Managers recommending late-night access to swims, skates and weight room specifically for youth 15-18 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Girls Only and Boys Only weight room orientations at SCP currently running</li> <li>- Youth Programmers are currently working with the Aquatics dept. at GHRC to collaborate on Advanced Aquatic &amp; swimming stroke development programs for youth in anticipation of the lessening of COVID restrictions</li> </ul>
	Work with local sports and arts organizations to provide entry-level opportunities for youth of all ages (e.g)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Continued with our partnership for HEROS (Hockey Education Reaching Out Society) to provide entry level hockey opportunity to ~18 youth despite COVID, this is the only program in Canada still able to operate during COVID Pandemic.</li> </ul>

		<p>-Cedar Hill has increased the number of introductory classes for youth in Badminton and Tennis with full registration as this is a COVID friendly – physically distanced program</p> <p>-Cedar Hill Squash Club provides free equipment and entry-level instruction in a youth-friendly environment</p>
Continue to reduce cost barriers for youth	Initiate discussion between Saanich LIFE Programmer and Youth Services Team to review current LIFE offerings for youth and recommend ways that Saanich can enhance existing levels of service and awareness to youth	Expanded Saanich-based LIFE Youth Passes have been highly promoted. Youth using the LIFE program has risen significantly since the introduction of the low barrier adjudicator form. This is one of our most successful outcomes of the YDS Strategy, reaching our most vulnerable and marginalized youth. This will continue to be a focus for youth programmers in the years to come.
Create "Safer Spaces" for disadvantaged youth, which may include indigenous, immigrant, LGBTQ2+ and socially isolated youth	Youth Programmers will continue to build relationships and create programming with groups of youth who are not accessing recreation due to social marginalization and/or isolation as a direct result of the barriers they face due to mental health, identity and home instability.	<p>- Through partnerships with Saanich Neighbourhood Place &amp; Grow Counselling, referred and provided free mental health support, and crisis intervention to youth in need at the Flipside Teen Centre/Tillicum Community. <i>Note: this program is temporarily curtailed while the Flipside is being used as a fire station.</i></p> <p>- Expanded support (staff and resources) for LGBTQ2IA+ drop in at Backdoor.</p> <p>- Expanded 2SQTY(2SpiritQueerTransYouth) Program at Upside Teen Centre at Commonwealth in order to increase the number of youth attending under COVID safety protocols</p>
<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Collaboration</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Renew relationships and agreements with School Districts 61 and 63 regarding youth Recreation and Parks opportunities located in middle and high schools in Saanich	Invite discussions and deepen relationships with schools, administration, counsellors, teachers, district and school PACs who are committed to youth development and extracurricular opportunities	<p>-The creation of the Teacher &amp; Schools Resource document has been shared with our community of schools. It outlines all we have to offer, financial assistance for youth through LIFE and our Youth Start Up funding.</p> <p>-Youth Programmers continue to meet regularly with school partners to discuss training opportunities, job skill development programs and programs to address mental health, stress and anxiety.</p> <p>-Although COVID has slowed these meetings down, Claremont Secondary has still requested assistance with mock interviews</p>

		and Grade 12 Cap Stone Presentations, as well as continued support for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
Increase internal department collaboration related to increasing youth recreation	Meetings held to increase collaboration between Saanich departments	-Think Tank was held similar to Lunch and Learn that allowed for discussions of needs, wants, and dreams for youth programming. Increased collaboration has been done with the Parks department and individual centre based meetings have occurred. -Programmers increased youth programming for tennis and badminton programs -Arts Programs at CHRC with a series of workshops have been successful.
Collaborate with Regional Youth Service agencies and networks	Advocate the YDS Strategic Priorities with regional youth serving agencies and other government and NFP organizations.	-Youth Services are represented at regional meetings, including: Health and Recreation Partnership (HARP), Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST), Inter-municipal Recreation Youth Workers Committee, Youth Services Provider Network (YSPN) -Youth Services continue to work, support and are represented with our NFP partners such as Saanich Neighbourhood Place (SNP), The Foundry, ICR, VIRCS, VNFC and Community Living among others.
Build relationships with local Aboriginal organizations, communities and councils as well as immigrant and settlement service providers	Youth Programmers initiate a meeting structure with regional partners. that is mutually beneficial with Songhees Nation, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria and Victoria Immigrant Refugee Centre Society, and Community Partnership Network to support youth development in their communities	-An increase of understanding and responses to the needs of new comers to Canada and our Aboriginal Youth -Weekly meeting spaces is allocated to VIRCS and ICA at our Youth Centres, Syrian Youth groups are given space after their swimming times. -To increase cultural awareness, Jessica Underwood a partner with VNFC presented Red Willow Dream Catchers for youth at Flipside. Telling the traditional story with harvested red willow from the Langford region, dream catchers were made by youth individually or in a small group, a truly beautiful way to pass down culture and create deeper understanding.
<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Risk and Outdoor Play</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Promote the benefits of outdoor play and risk with the goal of increasing the number and variety of outdoor opportunities	Champion outdoor play for youth in our programs, parks and services, provide outdoor program options, and promote outdoor options over indoor options	-from 2016-2020 an increase in outdoor youth offerings have taken place with Outdoor Adventure Clubs increasing from 1 days to 2 and monthly out-trips learning skills from whittling to shelter building in all-weather types.

		<p>-Break Out Adventures Youth Summer Camps have gone from its humble beginnings to running at full capacity several weeks throughout the summer. These have included Bike trips thanks to our SPD partners.</p> <p>-These opportunities have provided knowledge and self-assessment skills on risks vs hazards and allows for unstructured exploration of the natural surrounds throughout all of our outdoor programming.</p>
	Propose new and inventive ideas into playground design, youth specific spaces and park features	<p>-Working with Parks partners to engage youth in park design projects (Reynolds, Horner, Rosedale and Cedar Hill) through school surveys.</p> <p>-Horner Park upgrade was completed with a youth element added in 2020</p> <p>-Tripp Station Bike Pump Park underway</p>
Engage youth and youth champions (parents, grandparents, teachers etc.) in parks planning and decision-making processes for community parks, trails and open spaces	Parks staff adopt youth-friendly practices to invite youth and youth champions to participate and engage in planning,	<p>-Youth have been integrated and involved in meaningful decision making, especially with the Tripp Station development.</p> <p>-Youth Services will continue to work with the Parks department to recruit youth in the planning/designing/implementation of youth elements for parks</p>
<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Social Wellbeing</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Support positive mental health programs and resources for youth. Create awareness of how to mitigate the effects of high levels of stress and anxiety in youth population through parks and recreation	Promote recreation, culture and the arts as some avenues to support positive youth mental health specifically addressing alarming rates of anxiety, stress, depression and mental health issues	<p>-Youth are increasing the use of recreation activities to reduce the effects of stress and anxiety, previously the New Roots program out of the Upside Teen Centre, and Workin' on Wellness program out of the Flipside Teen Centre.</p> <p>-Partner with SNP &amp; Grow Counselling with beloved therapy dog Lawrence, to help provide much needed mental health support to youth in the Tillicum Community</p> <p>-Currently Arts Workshops, Outdoor Adventure Club and ongoing support groups (LGBTQ2IA+) have offered outlets of expression for anxiety and depression since COVID has begun.</p> <p>-Working now and in the future to provide Trauma Informed Yoga with our partners Grow Counselling.</p>
	Work with School Districts 61 and 63 counsellors and staff to enhance school initiatives regarding mental health.	-Ongoing collaboration, relationship building and pilot programs aimed at improving mental health started with SD 61 and 63.

	<p>Share resources, develop supports (e.g., arts, introductory dance classes, walking club, facilitated outdoor play, learn to run, yoga, meditation, etc)</p>	<p>–Some of these programs include: Steppin’ up to High School referral transition program with SD61.  -2016-2017 Pro Boy and Pro-G Day activities helped to address ongoing issues related to mental health through art, games and more &amp; yoga classes at lunch in Lambrick High School  -2018-2019 saw programs offered within the schools and requested by youth for Dance Clubs, lunch hour sports, and Girls/Boys Only groups.  -As COIVD restrictions begin to lift, Youth Programmers will once again prioritize supporting school administration, Counsellors and teachers offering recreation programs and support for mental health issues.</p>
	<p>Collaborate with Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (SD61) and Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils of Saanich (SD63) to host parent education/info sessions in a variety of venues and settings</p>	<p>-Working with our partners in the Inter-municipal Youth Committee &amp; Schools, we have provided several successful speakers and educational sessions. They have included:  Gordon Neufeld, Janet White, &amp; the screening of Screenagers with the White Hatters  -Mental Health First Aid Workshop for parents and caregivers was provided at the Backdoor Teen Centre.</p>
<p>Enhance spectrum of Youth Leadership and Development Opportunities</p>	<p>Continue to support and develop summer leadership programs including Teens In Action 1 and 2 (12-15 yrs) and Internship (16-18 yrs)</p>	<p>-Provided relevant leadership training to youth in the form of successful Teens in Action and Internship programs from 2016-2019.  -2019-2020 Internship programs went through a low, then suspended in summer 2020 due to COVID  -Currently we are receiving a number of calls and inquires re: our TIA &amp; Internship programs of which we will be addressing with Leadership programs and volunteers in our SNPP program.</p>
	<p>Work with School Districts 61 and 63 to create volunteer opportunities for job shadowing, work experiences, and career/skill/transitions</p>	<p>-Working with Career Planners at SD61, Youth Programmers worked in partnership for the Springboard to Success &amp; Girls On Fire Programs. These are transitional programs to help support the next steps in school or for job prep. Programmers were able to provide punch cards to Recreation, Parks &amp; Trail Maps and mentorship potential.</p>
<p>Support life skills, work-readiness, certifications, artistic</p>	<p>Complete a scan of existing Saanich and regional</p>	<p>-Throughout the YDS implementation, Youth Programmers provided a variety of job</p>

practice and career development initiatives for youth to increase employability while contributing to youth well-being	offerings, and research successful models for programming and certification offered in other municipalities	readiness & life skills courses and workshops. They include: Low cost first aid, Food Safe, Jewelry making , maker to market program, naloxone training at GH and SCP, and with our SD partners: Girls on Fire, Steppin' Up and Spring Board to Success. -This has become a priority on the work Youth Programmers do to help our Youth in the Community develop skills to become future healthy contributing citizens.
<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Youth Spaces</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Refocus Youth Programmers' roles on the new expectations for collaborative work with schools, agencies and community	Community Services Manager with Youth Programmers to determine the Youth Programmers' new responsibilities moving to a community development approach to programming and community engagement	-From the YDS Implementation in 2016 to 2020 and beyond, Youth Programmers in Youth Services have refocused their portfolios to collaborative work with our SD 61 & 63 partners and other youth serving organizations like SNP, ICA, VRCS and VNFC, as seen in multiple examples of collaborative programming offered. -It is the goal of Youth Programmers to continue this good work and look forward to re-connecting in person with partners after COVID
Maximize use of Teen Centres for youth	Initiate discussions with potential partners to enhance existing services and programs for youth and families (e.g. Public Health Nurse, Youth Clinicians, Youth and Family Counsellors)	-Ongoing meetings with Youth & Family Counsellors from our schools to discuss programs to address youth in need of support -Working with Grow Counselling and partnering with SNP to provide individual support and small group support for youth in our Tillicum area -Continuing to plan and meet with SNP & Island Health over possible future programming to meet the needs of youth in our community
	Utilize Teen Centres as resource 'hubs' for youth in the community	-Teacher & School Resource Guide for our Youth Centres designed and given to schools -Youth Spaces given for groups at the school to meet in a peaceful, safe and private place -Resources posted in Teen Centres and a Mental Health Resource Guide designed for staff regarding youth health and wellbeing. -Maximized through community user agreements, and other youth serving agencies using teen centres as meeting places.
Create youth opportunities in the Cedar Hill area.	Youth Programmers will co-lead planning with Cedar Hill Recreation Centre staff	-Along with Friday Night Social Programs and free weight room orientations Youth

	regarding drop-in and low-cost opportunities for youth (e.g. arts, social and sports drop-ins)	<p>Programmers and Programmers from CHRC have collaborated on Youth Art Workshops.</p> <p>-These Youth Workshops have been designed to help youth express themselves due to social isolation due to COVID, but also with other mental health issues, stress and anxiety through a variety of art mediums,</p> <p>-CHRC programmers assisted with finding the appropriate art specialists to deliver these programs</p>
Improve Teen Centre Facilities	Improve kitchen facilities at Flipside (stove/dishwasher - Pearkes) and Upside (stove - SCP) Teen Centres	<p>-Plans for the kitchen renovation at Pearkes Flipside are complete and the renovation project is now in the Pearkes capital improvement queue.</p> <p>-Flipside would benefit from this Kitchen renovation with a stove to teach youth in this Community food security, basic life cooking skills, nutrition and meal planning.</p> <p>-Nutrition education and cooking skills have been integrated into Teen Centre programs, e.g. Life Skillz cooking at the Backdoor and Upside (pre-COVID)</p>
<b>YDS INITIATIVE: Communication</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
Involve youth in the co-creation of creative, innovative and progressive communication strategies to youth	Utilize the Community Arts Specialist as a resource for creative artistic opportunities	<p>-Low cost Art Series will begin this Spring Break e.g. Jean Jacket /Canvas painting Bob Ross Style!</p> <p>-Needle Felting &amp; Intro Watercolour for Youth with the aid of Art Specialists through CHRC</p>
Ensure communication to youth is youth-friendly, age-appropriate, relevant and current to changing needs, trends and technology	Adopt best practice of 'going to youth' to promote programs as current methods have not been effective in reaching youth	<p>-During non-COVID times, programmers would regularly meet at schools and provide lunch hour programs where they would disseminate information and build relationships with youth and teachers.</p> <p>-Information and posters are given for school newsletters &amp; PAC meetings</p> <p>- Even in this past COVID year, schools have still requested information re: programs and Claremont Secondary regularly asks for assistance for programming with their students.</p>

<p>Create a regional communication plan to promote the L.I.F.E. program to youth</p>	<p>Work with regional partners and the Inter-Municipal Recreation Youth Programmers Committee to identify multiple avenues that inform youth and their families of the available options</p>	<p>-With the creation of the Adjudicator form, School Counsellors have successfully been able to access LIFE for youth          -It has improved clarity regarding the benefits available through the LIFE program          -Since the YDS implementation the number of youth accessing LIFE is:          2018 - 374          2019 - 397          2020 – 242          2021 – 77 (as of just Feb 17th)</p>
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### OLDER ADULT STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS

<b>OAS INIATIVE: Programming Continuum</b>		
<b>GOAL</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>
<p>Older Adults have access to wide range of social opportunities</p> <p>2.d Share information with older adults and Parks and Recreation staff to encourage use by self-organized groups</p> <p>3. Saanich offers a diverse range of outdoor programs</p>	<p>Cedar Hill Social Club (CHSC), Recreation Centres and Saanich partners continued to provide opportunities from Lawn Bowling, Bridge, guest speakers, art sessions, socials, skating, water fitness, tax help, woodworking, intergenerational and exercise programs</p> <p>HeArts Together collaborative community art project responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by inviting the community to come together creatively while remaining close to home designing hearts individually that were then displayed collectively at five public parks and online for all to enjoy</p> <p>Self-organized multicultural and event group supported by Gordon Head staff with use of lobby and multi-purpose room to celebrate, hold potlucks and inclusive gatherings</p> <p>Gardening, gentle walks in trails and parks, croquet and music events were available throughout the year</p>	<p>General provision January to March with limited resumption through summer, fall and winter</p> <p>CHSC full operations January to March, resumed chair fitness and brain games September to December in 2020</p> <p>Project approved May and first HeArt made June 2020. 250 Older Adults involved. New Relationships, additional collaborations formed and ongoing from this project</p> <p>Active January to March 2020 Eager to return when allowed with public health orders</p> <p>Gardening group maintained yearlong, walks January to March, resumed June to December and summer croquet opportunities in 2020</p> <p>July, August and September 2020</p>



<p>3.a, 9.c Explore new opportunities for outdoor programming</p>	<p>Music events were provided on site at non-profit seniors housing. Older Adults participated from their balconies</p>	<p>Feedback received fall 2020 Program starting January 2021</p>
<p>Design programs for 75+ population</p>	<p>Diversification of walking program to include “easy” walks for 70+ years, or persons wanting shorter, flatter, fully paved walks</p>	<p>Ran January to March and September to November 2020</p>
<p>5. Opportunities offered at modest, low or no cost to older adults</p>	<p>Continued to offer Community Art Circle a low-cost, low-barrier program with access to the joy of art making, in a creative and socially supportive environment</p>	<p>Review complete 2020 Presentation of results February 2021</p>
<p>6. The benefit of parks and recreation on older adults’ social, mental and physical health is measurable</p>	<p>Joint venture between Saanich Recreation, Island Health and the University of Victoria Medical Sciences to review the longest standing (23 year) collaborative program between Island Health and Recreation, the Take Heart Program</p>	<p>September to November 2020</p>
<p>8.a Develop and pilot respite programs where caregivers and the cared-for can participate in recreation with a grant and funding</p>	<p>Seniors Social and Movement class continued with social, exercise and recreation opportunity for adults with mild to moderate cognitive decline. Gave caregivers a break for themselves. Funded by Island Health grant</p>	<p>January to March 2020, offered independently virtually by instructor after March but eager to return when able</p>
<p>8.b Collaborate with community organizations for input on how caregivers can access support, in order to maintain their health through recreation programs</p>	<p>Continued collaboration with Voices in Motion Choir. Caregiver and older adult with dementia participated together maintaining health and social wellbeing through the joys of singing together and being part of a choir.</p>	<p>January to March 2020, resumed September to December 2020, Ongoing</p>
<p>10. Health services and programs are offered to support older adults</p>	<p>Take Heart program continued to be offered to older adults with chronic disease and for cardiac health</p>	<p>Review complete 2020 Presentation of results February 2021</p>
<p>10.c Identify potential funding sources to support community health services in centres</p>	<p>Review identified as a necessity for evaluation of Take Heart program sustainability</p>	<p>January to March 2020 Volunteers at SCP, SCP staffed March onwards, Volunteers planned start at Cedar Hill February 2021</p>

<p>11. c Create a Volunteer Greeter program where adults are trained to assist those new to centres, available at designated hours to provide individualized attention for older adults</p>	<p>Volunteer Greeter program with Welcome Ambassadors ran at Saanich Commonwealth Place (SCP) and new volunteers for Cedar Hill planned for 2020</p>	
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**OAS INIATIVE: Age-Friendly Spaces**

<p>14. a Saanich spaces are welcoming and inclusive environments for older adults, explore Welcome Kiosks in the lobbies of each centre</p>	<p>First welcome kiosk established in lobby of Saanich Commonwealth Place in 2019, second kiosk purchased for Cedar Hill in 2020</p>	<p>Saanich Commonwealth Place ongoing use through 2020. Cedar Hill install February 2021</p>
<p>14.c Create signage strategy for department</p>	<p>Signage strategy underway</p>	<p>Consultant hired, strategy completion expected 2021</p> <p>First signage implemented in Cedar Hill Golf Club renovation expected 2021</p> <p>Resource request for 2022 centre implementation</p>
<p>14 CONT. b Create public washroom strategy with Saanich Parks</p>	<p>Implementation continues with Saanich Parks, strategy complete 2019</p>	<p>No new washrooms added in 2020</p> <p>2021 plans to convert and open 6 washrooms previously only available to private clubs as well as add 2 pit washrooms, one portable washroom and two new washroom buildings at McMinn and Playfair parks</p>
<p>18. b Older Adults have access to safe outdoor and indoor walking opportunities</p>	<p>Work done on viability of accessible outdoor walkway loops to be completed in vicinity of recreation centers</p>	<p>Gordon Head completed walkway and paved connection with the bus stop 2020</p> <p>Horner Park renovation complete with loop trail, outdoor fitness station seating and picnic area available to older adults 2020</p>

		<p>Cedar Hill gravel pathway installed to complete walkable loop around centre 2020</p> <p>Cedar Hill Park Management Plan approved and completed October 2020 with minor landscaping to be completed 2021</p>
<b>OAS INIATIVE: Collaboration</b>		
<p>19. d Work with community partners to expand community-based opportunities for social connection</p>	<p>Networking and partnership group expanded to include Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) and Community Response Network</p>	<p>Added as partner in 2020 Connections Guides</p> <p>Elder program offered at VNFC in partnership with Saanich Community Services</p> <p>Plan H grant secured to provide community meals to introduce community groups to resources. Delayed due to COVID, coordinating a virtual community social meal instead</p>
<p>20.b, 23. a, b, e Work within Health and Recreation Partnership (HARP) to identify new opportunities</p>	<p>Continued use of Community Wellness grant for Neighbours Engaging in Activities Together (NEAT) project. Provided outreach programs to older adults in residences, introduced recreation opportunities and decreased isolation</p>	<p>January to August</p> <p>Funding still available for 2021</p>
<p>23.e Meet with cultural groups to define needs and how Saanich can assist in creating opportunities and programs</p>	<p>Community services staff attended Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue's Event, an advisory panel gathering hosted by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC)</p>	<p>February 2020</p>
<b>OAS INIATIVE: Enhance Communication</b>		
<p>28. New guide specifically for adults 50+ year</p>	<p>Produced CONNECTIONS throughout the year</p>	<p>Winter/Spring/Fall CONNECTIONS Guide</p>
<p>30. a, b Older adults are more aware of the LIFE program</p>	<p>Cross marketed information and promotional presentations at 55+ show, Burnside Gorge Community Centre and Cedar Shores</p>	<p>In person January to March and online in Spring</p>

<p>31. Older adults are aware of accessibility features of Saanich parks, trails and recreation services</p>	<p>Newsletter to Cedar Hill Social Club (CHSC) with monthly update on accessibility and safe participation information, recreation services, news, brain games and recipes</p> <p>Saanich's Older Adults Recreation webpage added simple healthy recipes, brain busters and safe participation information</p> <p>Cedar Hill Social Club (SHSC) instructor calls to members to check in, provide information and keep in contact</p>	<p>In print switched to email distribution in 2020</p> <p>2020</p> <p>December 2020 Ongoing in 2021</p>
<p>34 Report annually on outcomes of OAS</p>	<p>Created a report format and developed an annual report</p>	<p>OAS Report submitted</p>



# Older Adults Strategy Report Year Three 2020

In response to COVID-19, Older Adult Services have adapted programming to ensure the needs of our older adult community are met in meaningful ways. Activities described in this report occurred either before the onset of the pandemic, or have been adapted to meet Provincial Health requirements.

## Programming Continuum



Self-organized Older Adults were supported at Gordon Head to inclusively connect January-March over potlucks and celebrations on site.

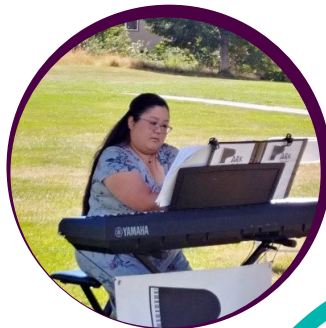
Outdoor programs diversified throughout the year:

- Live music performances delivered on the lawns of low-income housing
- Consulting over the fall with walkers about an "easy" 70+years walking group

Low-cost, low-barrier Community Art Circle program occurred during seven months of the year, supporting creative expression and social connection

Continued support of caregivers and companions January to March with:

- Voices in Motion Choir where caregivers and "carees" with dementia participated together in all the benefits of choir membership and singing together
- Seniors Social and Movement Class, with Island Health, provided social and movement benefits for older adults while caregiver had respite opportunity



## Age Friendly Spaces



Second Welcome Kiosk purchased for Cedar Hill Community Recreation Centre following successful model at Saanich Commonwealth Place

OAS signage strategy continued into final stages. Implementation planned over the next few years

Outdoor walkways became more accessible:

- Gordon Head Walkway Trail Loop connection to transit stop
- Horner Park renovation complete
  - Loop trails
  - Outdoor fitness station
- Cedar Hill gravel pathway, walkable loop around centre installed





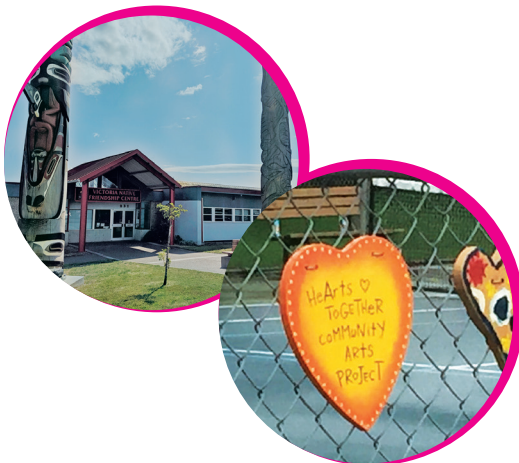
## Collaboration

Networking partnership expanded to include Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) and Community Response Network



- Staff attended Victoria Urban Reconciliation Dialogue's Event
- NEW in FEB! Elder program offered at VNFC in partnership with Saanich Community Services
- HeArts Together Community Art Project supports isolated and vulnerable community members, to collaborate artistically, sharing their care of our community

At risk of isolation and in low income housing Neighbours Engaging in Activities Together (NEAT) program continued to provide outreach and introductory recreation opportunities in Saanich



## Enhance Communication

Safety precautions and Welcome Back messages during **Covid-19**



NEW! Related Links resource added to website with Saanich partners and Older Adult service providers

CONNECTIONS Guide targeted for Older Adults was printed for Winter/Spring and Fall 2020 issues. Focused on:

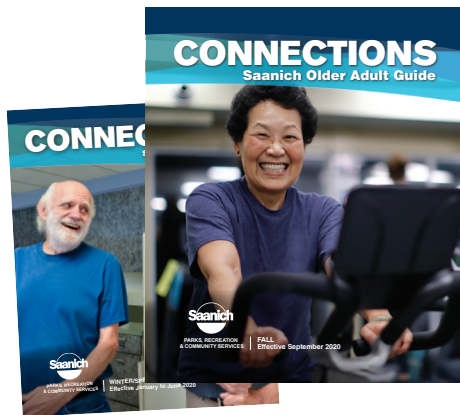
- Fitness and wellness program opportunities in recreation centres and with community partners including Try Before You Buy and Fee, Low Cost, Under \$30 activities
- Transportation options getting to activities
- Saanich Community facilities map
- Saanich Community Recreation Centre amenities, features and staff contacts
- Financial assistance LIFE and Older Adult Assistant Card information, passes and memberships information promoted
- Saanich Recreation Health Professionals information for physiotherapy, massage, aquatic and athletic therapy services

- Volunteer opportunities in Saanich
  - Table tennis
  - Welcome desk
- Class, program and site schedules and descriptions
- Parks and Trails washrooms and signage updates
- Special Interest Clubs listings
- Community resources listings
- NEW! Victoria Native Friendship Centre information
- Registration Information
- Special Events
- Information on how to give feedback and guide further development of CONNECTIONS Guide





# By the numbers



**12,000**

Older Adult Resource guides printed and distributed to...

- 28 Agency partners,
- 4 Recreation Centres and 7 CRD,
- 20 BC Housing Centres &
- 6 Neighbourhood Housing Centres

**41**

# Of Covid-19 safety measures taken to deliver 1 Older Adult low intensity exercise class

**1** Welcome Greater Kiosk added to Cedar Hill

**1437** Registrations for free guided walks

**1** Intergenerational Cooking Night in February

**100+** Check in calls staying connected with our Cedar Hill Social Club members

**219** Cedar Hill Social Club member visits since August 21<sup>st</sup>

**166** Seniors Social table tennis reserved drop-ins

**7** Social Cooking Classes January to March

**29** # Of participants 60+ who used the added free weight room orientations

**1** Strategy for signage in final stages \$40,000, implementation in 2021 & 2022

**11** Months of newsletters with Brain Games, Updates and Healthy Recipes

**20** People in Voices in Motion Choir January to March

**1** HeArts Together Community Art Project

**250** Older Adults contribute

**5** public park sites

# Youth Development Strategy Year Five Report | 2020



PARKS, RECREATION  
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

*“Thank goodness  
you’re open!”*

- Backdoor Youth participant



In response to COVID-19, Child & Youth Services have adapted programming to ensure the needs of our community youth are met in meaningful ways. Activities described in this report occurred either before the onset of the pandemic, or have been adapted to meet Provincial Health requirements.

## Increase Participation



- Breakout Adventures Youth Summer Camps were at full - 100% capacity
- Additional low cost pottery classes and art workshop series added at Cedar Hill Rec Centre
- Continued HEROS Hockey Program with 18 participants
- LIFE Program continues to expand each year with a simplified form, allowing School Counsellors to help youth access recreation services and programs
- Expanded program for the LGBTQ2+ Community at Upside Teen Centre enabling access to this vital program for mental health and wellbeing support

## Collaboration



- Continued partnerships with schools including Claremont High school requesting ongoing support with Mock Interviews and Cap Stone Presentation for grade 12 students in preparation for life beyond high school
- Collaborated with SNP, school counsellors and Grow Counselling provided mental health programs and support to youth at the Flipside Teen Centre. Flipside Teen Centre; suspended to provide temporary Fire Station
- Ongoing partnerships with Recreation Centre Programmers and Youth Services to provide youth low cost and introductory programs for the Arts, Aquatics, Skating, and nutritional cooking programs

## Risk and Outdoor Play



- Increased offerings in Outdoor Adventure Club to twice weekly with monthly trekking out-trips, running at full capacity
- Youth driven outdoor skill development has included:
  - Safety in fire building for camping
  - Whittling
  - Knot tying
  - Shelter building in all-weather types
- Unstructured outdoor play exploration intentionally added to youth break out adventures summer camps & programs
- Horner Park completed in 2020 with Youth elements added
- Tripp Station Bike Pump Park underway





## Social Wellbeing



- Development of low cost life skills programming including: Low Cost First Aid & Food Safe Certifications & Nutritional Cooking, meal prep & planning
- Provided Mental Health Recourse Guide for staff working with youth
- Provided free mental health counselling and support for Youth at the Flipside, accompanied by Lawrence the therapy wonder dog
- Low cost/no cost art workshops for youth allowing expression of self through a variety of art mediums
- Increased programming times and support for LGBTQ2+ Community at the Backdoor and Upside Teen Centres

## Communication



- Saanich branded materials delivered to schools to help promote healthy active living and youth programs at our Youth Teen Centres
- Community Arts Community Artists provided a variety of art workshops including needle felting and intro to water colours
- The Backdoor Teen Centre displayed youth art creations that represented youth in recreation as a promotion for our programs
- Saanich Youth Services: Community & School Resource Guide developed and delivered to teachers and schools with a focus on:
  - Youth Centre Information
  - Programs & Services Available
  - Financial Support (LIFE)
  - Grants & Funding Requests – Youth Start Up & Wolf's Den Grants

## Youth Spaces



- Provide meeting space and networking opportunities to school groups and our nonprofit youth serving partners such as ICA, VIRCS, SPN
- Expanded services to meet the needs of large groups seeking support in our LGBTQ2IA+ and Community
- Adapting youth programs in the Pearkes Fieldhouse while the Flipside Teen Centre houses the Fire Station. These programs are at max. capacity and continuing to support youth in the Tillicum community
- Development of new leadership structure for overall efficiencies of the Youth Teen Centres programs and financial accountability during COVID and beyond
- Backdoor Teen Centre continue to be a hub of activity for low cost life skills programs including low cost first aid, and cooking programs as well as offering a peaceful, safe meeting space for supporting youth from Lambrick High school GSA program



# By the numbers

**100%**  
**Full Capacity**

for Breakout Adventures  
Youth Summer Camps



**110**

Youth Certified  
in Red Cross  
Babysitters  
Course



**9036**

Archery arrows shot at  
Cedar Hill Recreation  
Centre in 2020



**250** Saanich branded yoga  
mats, basketballs, waterbottles,  
footballs and sport bags given to  
youth to promote youth services,  
recreation and healthy living

**5**

Bikes donated by  
Saanich Police  
Department for  
biking out-trips in  
youth camps.



**97** Registered  
dryland youth  
programs offered in  
2020 despite COVID



**228**

Diapers changed by  
youth in the Red Cross  
Babysitters Program



**33**

Youth attended  
Under 16 Tennis  
Development



**18**

Participants  
in HEROS  
Hockey  
Program –  
the ONLY  
HEROS  
Hockey  
program  
operating in  
Canada during  
COVID



**72**

Youth attending  
Friday Night Skates  
at Pearkes  
(Jan-March 2020)

**48**

Youth attended the  
“Green Ball FUN”  
program at Cedar Hill  
Rec Centre (Racquet  
programs)



Youth LIFE  
Participants:

2018

**374**

2019

**397**

2020

**242**  
DESPITE  
COVID

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

**DATE:** March 24, 2021

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

**SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – March 24, 2021**

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

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

#### **Park user groups**

Staff are busy meeting with all sport user groups and clubs that are planning for their 2021 adapted spring season (COVID 19 approved). This involves meeting with 15 ball clubs, 3 lawnbowling clubs, 3 community garden clubs, 1 football club and 1 lacrosse club.

In terms of allowable activities with current Provincial Health orders in effect, youth are still permitted to have skills and drills. Very little adult activities are allowed at the moment, except rowing, singles pickleball and tennis, or doubles if they live in the same household. While sport groups are hopeful for games and tournaments, this will be determined by Provincial Health orders in the coming weeks and months. Staff make changes to allowable activities and provide information to park user groups as information is provided by the Province.

#### **Park Partner Applications**

Several clubs are following the process to apply to carry out projects in parks. Currently, there is an application to expand the dock at the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club. The VCKC is not asking for funding from Saanich but needs to get authorization as the dock sits in a water licence that the municipality has with the Province. The application provides a letter of support from the Gorge Waterway Initiative, and the Tillicum Gorge Community Association. While Saanich Parks has approved the concept in principal, there are several concerns that need to be addressed (engineering, environmental and archaeological). Also the Province recently provided feedback that this proposed expansion involves submitting a new water licence application from the Ministry of Environment. We understand this may take several years to obtain.

Staff have received an application for a small project by the Mavericks (a baseball club) involving moving and improving the “bullpen” at Lambrick Park so it is further situated away from the playground.

The Victoria Tennis Club has begun the process to apply for a grant to rebuild the tennis courts on Viewmont (near Brydon Park). The tennis courts are over 30 years old and have been patched in recent years several times. This court is a shared public court with club exclusive hours. This will be a fairly significant capital project that will depend on funding and will likely take at least one and up to two years to implement. Saanich Parks leases the land from BC Hydro and staff are working through process.

## **Park Stewardship Update**

### **The 2020 Volunteer Hours are in**

Despite Covid-19 restrictions 2020 has still been a very busy year for volunteers in Saanich Parks: **11,645 total volunteer hours logged or 5.6 FTE!** Volunteers have been following COVID 19 restrictions.

- 11,137 total Pulling Together volunteer hours over 44 sites
  - 62 Lead stewards leading groups on 44 sites (10,767 volunteer hours)
  - 4 school groups (total 240 volunteer hours)
  - 1 community event Tree Appreciation Day (46 volunteer hours)
  - 1 volunteer training event (32 volunteer hours)
  - 4 Covid-19 training sessions, plus individual phone calls (52 volunteer hours)
  - Pulling Together activities included invasive species removal, and over 25 planting/restoration projects
  
- 518 total Park Ambassador volunteer hours at Mount Douglas Park
  - 11 Park Ambassadors
  - 1 Covid-19 training session (11 volunteer hours)
  - active 7 days a week

### **Pulling Together 2021**

Parks' Stewardship Coordinator continues to support the good work of our community-based stewardship programs. Pulling Together Lead Stewards are busy with their volunteer groups, and planning for 2021. Lead Stewards are meeting with Saanich staff, and developing agreed upon "2021 restoration action plans". So far, 25 site visits have been booked to discuss plans, while practicing physical distancing and ensuring all staff and volunteers remain safe.

### **Park Ambassadors**

Eleven active Park Ambassadors continue to educate visitors in Mount Douglas Park (from a safe distance). On February 23, staff met with the Park Ambassadors virtually. The meeting provided some great feedback to further engage park visitors, including using the iNaturalist app. One of our keen young Park Ambassadors offered to help the others become more comfortable using this tool.

School stewardship activities have also resumed, with one school group per week, with COVID 19 protocols. As much as possible, Saanich Parks is aiming to support school groups who have not yet had an opportunity for hands-on stewardship activities, and for groups that want repeat visits. They are paired up with Lead Stewards.

Considerable interest from the greater community wishing to volunteer continues. There have been over 200 requests from the community to volunteer since March of 2020. Unfortunately, bringing on new volunteers is on hold until Public Health orders are revised. Saanich Parks is working on a plan to allow for the resumption of new volunteer recruitment so that we will be ready when changes are made.

## Field Guide (Plants & Animals in Saanich Parks)



The [Field Guide](#) that Saanich Parks introduced was provided to all Pulling Together Lead Stewards and Park Ambassadors. Here are a few comments we've received:

*"Thank you for the field guide! Very special to have this. And to receive something in the mail is special too. Spring is in the air!" JG (Arbutus Park)*

*"Thank you for the lovely little field guide, it will be great to show visitors in the park. Love the art work and that it is waterproof! WP (Whitehead Park)*

*"Thank you very much for the brochure. Not only is it lovely to look at, as all Kristi Bridgeman's drawings are, but also it will be a great help in showing people, even in the rain, what is growing in the park. Thank you." MHB (Whitehead Park)*

The main channel of distribution for this field guide is digital, so feel free to share the link with anyone. The field guide was recently shared with local environmental educators so they are aware and they can share their ideas. We plan to take those ideas and develop some

educational resources to encourage educators to bring youth (and the young at heart) to our amazing parks. Also we are working towards having the guide translated into SENĆOŦEN and lək̓ʷəŋən.

## Park Planning and Development

### Planning and Design

- **Washroom Plan** – Staff are working through a procurement process to obtain prefabricated standardized washrooms.
- **George Tripp Youth Park** – The consultant, Bike Track has begun preliminary design concepts which will be shared with the community for feedback before a final design is chosen. Construction is anticipated this summer. A grant application for a youth art mural project and bike share program was submitted to the federal government.
- **Cuthbert Holmes Park Trail Relocation and River Improvement Project** – Approximately 200 m of the asphalt trail adjacent to Silver City Theatre will be relocated to allow a 30m wide river buffer to be restored. Removal of invasive English Hawthorn trees will be carried out. In-stream improvements to the

Colquitz River are also planned this year. This is a multi-year project that will further actions identified in the Cuthbert Holmes / Tillicum Parks Management Plan (2015). The river buffer restoration component will begin with invasive English hawthorn removals beginning soon.

- **Normandy Park Playground Replacement Project** – Public input has concluded with more than 50 formal surveys received. Proposed play equipment has been posted to the web site for final review. This information will help to inform the final design of the play area. Equipment will be ordered soon and construction should begin once the equipment has arrived.
- **Cedar Hill Park Management Plan** – Goals and Actions for 2021 and beyond have been established which include:
  - Natural Areas Plan – providing a tool for the systematic removal and restoration of identified Natural Areas (Zones 1-15) in the park,
  - Hydrological and Environmental Assessment and Restoration Plan for Kings and Jenkins Pond,
  - Design review and upgrades to the Derby Road Connector focusing on the area between the parking lot to the ProShop as this multi-use section is heavily utilized by pedestrians, cyclists and golfers.
- **Allenby Park Playground and Sport Court Replacement Project** – The playground and sport court at Allenby Park have been identified as requiring upgrades. The online public survey closed February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 with further public engagement expected to wrap up later this spring which will lead to a final concept plan. Construction is anticipated to start in summer with completion later in the fall.

## **Construction**

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

- **Horner Park** – All major components of the Horner Park renovation project have been completed and the park has been fully open to the public since early December. Some of the general landscaping work as well as installation of the drinking fountain, the central plaza and decals for the playground remain to be completed. Overall community response to the new upgrades has been very positive.
- **Quadrant 1 Trail Resurfacing Program** – Work is being completed on gravel trails within Quadrant 1 (South Saanich). Most recently work has been completed at Cedar Hill Park with a new section of trail allowing a safe access to the day-care in the back of the building installed at the request of Recreation Centre staff.
- **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 2021 with two parks completed so far. With addition to installing new park ID signage we have also worked on updating many parks and beach accesses regulatory signage as well as directional and wayfinding signs at many locations throughout Saanich.
- **Hampton Park** – Work recently began on the renovation to the main parking lot off Hampton Rd. The project will include enlarging the existing parking area as well as an additional exit/entrance to improve traffic flow. Other public amenities will also be added. The work in the park was timed to coincide with

major sidewalk and boulevard improvements on Hampton Road completed in late 2020 by Engineering and Public Works.

- **Trail washout repairs** – Several parks and trails were affected by intense rain events over the winter. Parks including Panama Flats, Colquitz River, Copley East, Annie, Playfair, Mt. Tolmie, Vantreight, McBriar, Knockan Hill and a few others all saw significant water damage and flooding on gravel trails. Most of the repairs have now been completed. Staff were alive to the fact that park visitor numbers have been very high as a result of COVID 19.

## **Park Operations**

### **Maintenance Section**

Maintenance is continuing to support core services:

- Washrooms are being cleaned daily and have been receiving a lot of graffiti. Our washroom strategy will go into effect this spring and we will be opening more washrooms to the public thanks to support from Council.
- Refuse is still quite heavy with quite a lot of dumping in parks. Parks is continuing to deal with camping in parks and cleaning up debris and garbage abandoned.
- Parks shop is busy repairing equipment and getting ready for the spring surge.
- The maintenance crews are out doing baseball preseason work in preparation for the April 1 opening date for a modified season.
- Irrigation section is starting to do installation work and charging of all systems has begun.

### **Horticulture Section**

The focus of Horticulture in Jan/Feb was on neighbourhood traffic circle maintenance. Weeding, pruning and mulching of 163 sites was completed. This puts us well on our way to the goal of visiting half of the 450+ islands each year. Staff continue to maintain landscapes in parks and at facilities and are now starting to clean turf areas of winter branches and debris in preparation for turf mowing which will begin in late March. Spring bulbs are appearing in displays throughout the municipality for residents to enjoy. Daffodils and hyacinths are blooming and tulips won't be far behind.

### **Urban Forestry Section**

Urban Forestry (UF) staff continued to make good headway working through the backlog of tree related calls from the blustery winter. UF staff is planning on doing some proactive pruning in the Quadra/Cedar Hill area, once the outstanding calls are dealt with. Supervisory staff continue to review Engineering drawings for tree impacts, and provide onsite arborist supervision for Public Works projects. The boulevard tree planting program wrapped up planting in the Gordon Head, Shelbourne, and Quadra areas, with 74 trees planted. We sent letters out to all Community Associations reminding them to promote the Partnership Tree Planting Program in order to green their neighborhoods.

### **Natural Areas Section**

Natural Areas crews have planted over 250 native Western Red Cedar and Douglas fir trees in Cuthbert Holmes Park to compensate for the removal of about 75 dead Grand fir trees. The new pathway at Cuthbert Holmes Park is being cleared of invasive Hawthorn trees. Public feedback is very positive about the new location of the pathway

and the restoration work that will take place over the next three years. Part of this creekside restoration project is the establishment of three Trembling Aspen groves that is being funded by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to compensate for the Highway 1 project. This Aspen replacement project will take place over a ten year period.

Working with the Park Stewardship Coordinator, dozens of site visits, with Lead Stewards, have been taking place to set up the work plans for 2021. These meetings are highlighting many short-term requests and a broader picture of how their work parties will progress over the year. Crews support the PT program with work party support, mulch drop-off, and invasive pile pick up.

Three Great-horned Owl nesting platforms were built and installed in Cuthbert Holmes Park in early February in an area known to be inhabited by a male Great-horned owl. Just days before the nests were installed by the Urban Forestry crew, a new female owl took up residence and the courtship began immediately. Two nests have been visited by the pair of owls and hopefully one has been chosen as a permanent residence to raise their owlets. Nine Swallow/Wren boxes will be installed close to the Cuthbert Pond in the next week. A wood Duck nesting box was placed in the Pond last month.

Staff continues to manage invasive English Holly and Hawthorn trees in many parks. The program is effective and is paying off with many forests, that were once dominated with Holly or Hawthorn trees, now re-establishing an understory of native plant species in a more open canopy. The provincially funded Shiny geranium removal project has begun with a contractor using steam treatments against the highly invasive plant.

Projects coming up include:

- Mount Douglas summit split-rail fencing to delineate some natural areas for restoration,
- Continue restoration work in Cuthbert Holmes Park along Colquitz Creek,
- Bare earth trail repairs,
- Continue with Holly/Hawthorne treatments,
- Winter Lesser celandine surveys and treatments,
- Continue with Shiny geranium treatments,
- Supporting Pulling Together volunteers and Park Stewardship Coordinator to outline restoration plans for 2021,
- Working with Public Works Storm & Wastewater crew to plan for creek work during the 2021 fisheries window (August),
- Removing Blackberry and mulching along the stream at McMinn Park to prepare for the Tree Appreciation Day planting event in November,
- Doumac Park restoration tree and shrub planting,
- Curtis Point cedar split-rail fencing project to delineate areas for people and areas for conservation,
- Salvage native Sword fern and Dull Oregon grape from the new Douglas Creek bridge site where new trails will be established,





## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

### Report

**To:** Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee  
**From:** Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services  
**Date:** March 24, 2021  
**Subject:** Community Services Division Update

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the 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

**Inclusion and Accessibility:** 1-on-1 Inclusion Leader support requests have increased for Spring Break 2021 despite the climate of COVID-19. Initial family requests have increased by 40% in comparison to 2020. However, in reality only 4/10 families followed through with needing support in March 2020, where this year we have 14 families, many requesting Inclusion Leader support for both weeks of Spring Break. Support requests from families without Support Child Development funding have become more prevalent. This has spiked discussion for funding solutions within Saanich to provide these services for families with additional barriers.

**Older Adult Services:** COVID-19 health restrictions have greatly affected our older adult community program offerings and as a result, had squashed opportunities for this population to stay social and connected. A once thriving group, the Cedar Hill Social Club, was required to cancel its last modified session before the winter holidays. This didn't sit well with the programming team... So we adapted!! In a safe-COVID-manner, a Saanich Elf delivered some cheer via the doors steps of 14 program participants! In late January, a Chair Fitness and Brain Games programs has launched under the new Provincial Health Order restrictions and staff are piloting a telephone check-in service for the older adults that used to frequently attend activities with the Cedar Hill Social Club.

BC 55+ Games in Victoria has been postponed until 2022 but we are still able to go ahead with the "Give It a Try" events. We have postponed all sessions until Provincial Health Order restrictions lessen, but remain hopeful that we will be able to support this recreation programs in 2021.



**Community Arts:** The [HeArts Together Community Art Project](#) has installed another display – this time at Majestic Park. This month, hearts are being made to contribute to the project by dozens of participants through the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria.

**Exhibitions:** *Saanich Municipal Hall - Through February 12:*

- Main Floor Window:** Silver Swan Quilters @ Swan Lake - textiles
- Main Floor Gallery:** Linda Rose Stagg - paintings
- Second Floor Gallery:** Janie Lucas - paintings



Silver Swan Quilters

**Special Events:** Residents will have the opportunity to celebrate the Family Day weekend creatively this year. Due to the on-going pandemic we are not able to host the in-person Family Arts Festival at the Cedar Hill Recreation and Arts Centre in 2021. While we cannot come together in person, our Family Arts “Family Bubble” Festival will offer lots of opportunities for families to celebrate community, creativity and culture. Activities planned will include virtual cultural performances and online arts activities that can be undertaken and enjoyed at home and outdoors. A full list of activities will be available on the Saanich website.

**Diversity and Equity:** February is a busy month for cultural celebrations and events although they are all modified this year.

February is Black History Month. There are a variety of online presentations, a Ross Bay Cemetery Walking Tour on Black Pioneers, a symposium on Black Immigration in BC and the RBC Museum has a new online exhibit on BC’s Black Pioneers. More info at <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/community-services/diversity-and-equity.html>

February 11 is Moose Hide Campaign Day. The Moose Hide Campaign is a movement to end violence against women and children. This movement started locally in the Indigenous community and it has become a national event. Pins are available on the Moose Hide website and a limited supply will be available at Municipal Hall. You can also support the movement by joining the online event on the 11th at [moosehidecampaign.ca](http://moosehidecampaign.ca)

This year, February 12 marks the beginning of Lunar New Year. This an important celebration with many in the Asian community. There will be no gatherings this year and no celebration at the Municipal Hall but we will have some online video performances and the centres will have their information displays and decorations up.

**Financial Assistance:** The 2021 LIFE Program has growing attention from individuals and families seeking assistance to access recreation. With changes in program offerings due to COVID-19, there has been growing concerns regarding limitations in accessibility (there are limited numbers of people that can access the weight room/pool/ice surface at one time) and the elimination of the annual pass option available at 50% off the usual price. LIFE Participants are expressing their concerns and I am exploring options that can be entertained both within the District of Saanich and inter-municipally.

The Canadian Tire Jumpstart program has announced a big change for 2021 – the elimination of paper applications. This will result in the elimination of assisting those low income families who struggle with the online application process. I will be strategizing option to assist families through the online process to ensure citizens can receive benefits they qualify for.

The after school programs facilitated in partnership with PISE and supported by the BCRPA have resumed at Tillicum Elementary School for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. With all COVID safety protocols in place, this program successfully operated from October-December of 2020 and with positive anticipation will continue into 2021.

Operation Helmet was a “feel good” project that saw 18 new helmets delivered to the participants of the Heroes Hockey program and 2 students from Marigold School. These helmets were accompanied by \$100 grants for Saanich Recreation – both helmets and grants were made possible by KidsFUNd and Jumpstart. A rewarding pre-Christmas venture! 6 helmets and grants are still available and will be given to those in need throughout winter 2021.

**Child and Youth Services:** Although our programs were a bit slow to get moving after the New Year, our registered numbers have picked up and are moving ahead at capacity. Our Girls on the Go Program is full of eager girls working on some amazing projects and incredibly happy to be able to interact with one another outside of school. Parents have commented on how they have seen their kids coming home much happier than when they first left the house. A true testament to the importance of social wellness. Cedar Hill Art programs and workshops are also full, facilitating social distanced art programs to youth. Teaching new painting techniques to youth who have not painted using Acrylics or Watercolours previously.

The Outdoor Adventure Club had a successful start to their new year, outside exploring the trails of our local parks and learning the art of layering for the weather! This group continues to ask for more opportunities to learn skills and will be planning a safe, physically distanced, masked trek to Goldstream Park at the beginning of February. Adventure awaits!

**Film Industry:** The film industry continues to be very active in Saanich with four new locations in January. Gyro Park is the site of one of the latest projects filmed for the production called “Maid” which is will be an upcoming Netflix series. Other locations include two private residences in the Cadboro Bay area and the Tillicum Laundry facility next to Hampton Park. The Maid series is expected to continue filming in the CRD throughout the year.