

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Monday, September 13, 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 **1-833-214-3122** and use code **961 103 339#** during the time noted above.

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

- 1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
  - May 26, 2021
- 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS**
- 3. SUMMER CAMP WRAP UP**
- 4. PEOPLE, PETS AND PARKS TERMS OF REFERENCE**
  - Discussion
- 5. PARKS AND ADAPTING TO HEAT**
- 6. CHURCHILL DRIVE GATE CLOSURE ON LONG WEEKENDS**
  - Review of practice implemented during COVID and request for recommendations to Council moving forward
- 7. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PARKS UPDATES**

**\* Adjournment \***

**Next Meeting: October 27, 2021**

**In order to ensure a quorum, please call Lynn Merry at 475-5494 ext. 3501 or  
lynn.merry@saanich.ca if you are unable to attend.**

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers, and via Microsoft Teams**  
**May 26, 2021 at 4:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin (via MS Teams), Kathleen Burton, Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth (via MS Teams), Lyndsay Edgar, Amy-Jade Louie (via MS Teams), Dexter Owen,

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks, Rick Hatch, Assistant Supervisor, Natural Areas; Nadine Kawata, Community Planner (via MS Teams); Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Leigh Campbell, Annie Djiotsa, Kyle Danielewicz

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### **Minutes**

**MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by K. Burton: "That the Minutes of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting held April 28, 2021, be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The Chair stated that Council received the committee's recommendations regarding dogs. The Mayor had already spoken to the UVic president about re-opening their field so the motion asking Council to write to UVic did not pass because of this. The other three motions made by this committee did pass, and the trial dog parks will be funded and hopefully set up through July and August.

The Chair noted that Council also passed a motion regarding food trucks in parks. The Senior Manager of Parks stated that we are looking to have food trucks in 3 parks, with each vendor operating for two weeks each (during July and August). The call for the food truck lottery system is open until May 31<sup>st</sup> and the application process is on the website. This program will be advertised and vendors will already have strong followings. There is also a street food app available for people to download. Don't want to put paper advertisements in parks.

The Chair reported that the issues of signage at Gyro Park and creating an on-leash path to the beach also went to Council. The whole waterfront of Gyro Park and other waterfront parks are part of a 1923 sanctuary. There is no signage but this area is the Federal Government's responsibility.

### **HOUSING STRATEGY TASK FORCE**

The Community Planner presented information on recommendations from the Housing Strategy Task Force (HSTF). The following was noted:

- Many recommendations from the HSTF arise from density issues. They examined complete communities, access to transit, and amenities including parks, trails and recreation (PTR).
- PTR amenities can result in positive impacts to health and well-being. Considering these factors, staff want to ask this committee:

- What are the impacts of housing and population growth on PTR.
- How can we ensure equitable access to PTR when addressing housing needs.
- How to protect and enhance PTR through the Housing Strategy.
- Housing Needs reports were recently legislated for all municipalities to undertake. Saanich worked with CRD and other municipalities on this and identified that key local needs include affordable housing, rental, seniors, disabilities, one person and lone parent households, and families.
- Following the Needs Report is the Housing Strategy, which will direct how we move forward and accommodate varying housing needs now and in the future.
- The Strategy will provide a 10-year framework and a path forward to improve housing.
- Many recommendations are about market and non-market housing.
- Council asked for an expedited process; this started in June 2020 and in July 2021 a final Strategy will go to Council. Much more work will need to be done to implement the actions.
- The Task Force had 13 meetings over six months to develop the strategies. Main recommendations have prioritized actions which were organized into seven focus areas.
- For this presentation we are broadly looking at housing impacts to PTR.

Committee discussed and asked questions of staff. The following comments were noted:

- There is a diverse range of actions recommended regarding renting.
- In the Shelbourne Plan there is a section regarding pocket parks to give residents greenspace. In the Strategic Plan there is a target for parks to be within 500 metres of homes. This probably cannot be done with the type of density being discussed but is worth talking about.
- Are there equity issues? Low income people should be able to access recreational opportunities.
- Some developers are looking at installing small dog parks in/near developments.
- Suggestion that housing planners be given the 3-30-300 recommendation to consider in terms of trees in urban areas.
- With all the proposed density the question was raised where parks will be located.
- Should there be density targets related to parks? Parks are very well used and are becoming priorities.
- Saanich has Development Cost Charges; can park amenities can come from these?
- Are developers able to incorporate greenspace in their own developments, (eg. roof gardens)? It would be interesting to see what can be done on site.
- Amenities such as a bbq roof, an exercise roof, a garden roof etc., could be proposed.
- This committee could recommend that with density there should be some extra effort put into green space and connections within high rise buildings. There needs to be some policy created in this big document to guide this.
- Small outdoor spaces for gardening is in high demand for planting vegetables. More people are interested in growing. Also, pocket parks, parks can get crowded quickly. We need areas with fields for balls, playgrounds, etc. Pocket parks won't be good for high density. Important to have your own yard as well for everyone: owners, renters, and lower income housing.
- We could use different layers from the GIS system and use different lenses for this issue and come up with algorithms or plans based on this information.
- It is valuable to ensure that information is easily available to owners/tenants on how to access and enjoy facilities. Suggestion that Saanich asks developers what process they will use to make sure their tenants and home owners know what is available in the area.
- The Chair noted that Saanich asks developers to provide information package to those moving in and they could be asked to include information about access to parks, bike facilities, transit etc.

- More cultural interpretation and signage would be beneficial and informative. This could come from DCCs.
- If there are playgrounds or rooftop gardens, they would not offer the same accessibility; parks are public so accessible areas need to be public.
- You want residents to connect with other residents in neighbourhoods.
- Suggestion made to protect rural areas from infill. The vast majority of people don't know the locations of trails and parks in rural areas.
- There will be growth impacts with neighbourhood infill if duplexes turn into 4-plexes, and with apartments.
- Equitable access: how can we incorporate fair access to PTR while addressing housing needs for affordable and diverse housing?
- Can we work with developers and have them provide recreation passes or transit passes for people; or provide bikes for people who don't have cars; any way to promote this would be beneficial.
- There are opportunities to protect and enhance PTR through the Housing Strategy.

The Senior Manager of Parks stated they will provide an overview of current standards for parks and assessments of neighbourhoods where there are deficiencies in greenspace, and noted that there is a need for good green space with population growth.

The Community Planner thanked committee members for the comments and noted in reply to some comments:

- There is a Community Amenity Contribution and inclusionary housing program initiated by Council and mentioned in the report.
- The Climate Plan has information on green space (eg. green roofs, gardens on roofs).
- There is a Tenant Assistance policy which is one of the parallel initiatives.
- Planners will continue to connect with other departments in terms of the Climate Plan and Park Plans.
- As census information is updated the Strategy will have to be updated as well.

## **NATUREHOOD MAP**

Kathleen Burton circulated "Nature in the City" maps for members and provided a background of the Naturehood group that launched in Greater Victoria. She noted that map's tagline is "a Guide to Many adventures" and this publication was made to deepen residents' connections to nature. The map allows for different experiences; it can be used as a guide and it tells stories of urban habitats and different species. The centre of map has an easy to see species references and the artwork is done by local artists. Community partners were noted as well.

A species list and places on the map show English with Latin names, as well as First Nations language of the ləkʷəŋən and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. This map offers readers a chance to learn about biodiversity, plants, and encourages one to get out in nature. Educational opportunities are showcased and this also teaches about watersheds.

It was noted that Nature is a free activity and there are apps such as E-bird and I-naturalist to help people get out and identify flora and fauna. About 7,000 maps were printed and there are only 700 maps left, so another print is planned. The next steps are to create an online version of the map.

The Chair thanked Ms. Burton for the presentation and noted that this map would be great at a tourism info booth.

## **NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM**

The Senior Manager Parks and the Assistant Supervisor, Natural Areas presented information about the Natural Areas program which is one of eight sections of the Parks department. The purpose of the presentation is to teach about natural areas, and provide information on how areas are managed:

- Saanich is located in the Coastal Douglas Fir zone, one of the most endangered ecosystems in BC, with only 1% of land protected and over 200 species at risk.
- There has been plenty of research on the physical health and mental health benefits of nature. Natural Intelligence is a Saanich initiative to improve knowledge of nature, parks and how to improve our environment.
- Natural areas are considered spaces that are relatively undisturbed, abundant with native species that provide habitat for a diversity of wildlife.
- Saanich has over 860 hectares of park land, approximately 500 hectares (62%) of which is considered to be natural areas.
- Private landowners play an important role in the conservation, restoration and protection of natural areas.
- A timeline of the history and growth of the Natural Areas program was discussed.
- The primary elements of the Natural Area Program includes invasive species management, restorations, trail work and restoration planting, community outreach and partnerships, natural area habitat structures and tree appreciation day.
- There are over 400 areas where invasive species are being managed by parks staff and environmental services staff. These areas will be included on a new GIS layer.
- Herbicide use has been reduced as most species are now manually removed.
- The Douglas Creek restoration included approximately 900m of the creek being restored, with dozens of restoration sites within riparian zone.
- The Colquitz Creek East Ridge restoration included nature benches, split rail barriers and a wood chip trail to a viewing area.
- Partnerships with Saanich Parks, Peninsula Streams and Public Works have led to significant improvements and restorations along areas of Colquitz Creek, Swan Creek and Bowker Creek.
- Trail work and restoration planting has taken place on Lindsay Trail along the Colquitz River, South Ridge Trail up Mount Douglas, Glendenning Trail and Playfair Park. This includes split rail fencing to protect some sensitive environmental areas.
- Between October 2020 and March 2021, over 30 sites were planted with over 600 trees and more than 4000 shrubs, ferns, forbs and grasses.
- Partnerships with volunteers, youth groups, first nations and non-profit organizations are important. These groups provide over 15,000 volunteer hours per year. Saanich provides pile pick up, onsite support, trees, tools and tarps to support these efforts.
- Many beneficial habitat structures such as logs/boulders, bat boxes, wood duck boxes, swallow/wren boxes and Great Horned Owl nesting platforms are provided in restoration areas and natural areas to benefit native plants and animals. One of the owl nesting platforms was in use within days, and video confirmed hatchlings within it.
- Saanich will continue working on the Natural Intelligence campaign, engaging and highlighting restoration opportunities to celebrate the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, trail closures and habitat protection as needed. Short term goals include micro restorations, drip line restorations, and pollinator plantings in parks.

In reply to questions and comments from the committee the following was noted:

- The owl boxes can be replicated fairly easily and staff are wanting to install more where owls live. Boxes need to be in a good spot in a mature Douglas; staff have to pick trees carefully and see what is going on around them. Crows do attack owls at Cuthbert Holmes and staff would like to put camera in the area to monitor the bird life.

- Sometimes cameras are stolen however plantings are usually not stolen.
- Wall lizards are invasive and spreading quickly. There is a local researcher mapping their spread. Deer can also be a problem and can eat newly planted materials.

### **DIVISION UPDATES**

Updates from the Community Services, Recreation and the Parks departments were received with the agenda for information.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

# Saanich Parks, Recreation & Community Services Summer Camps Report 2021



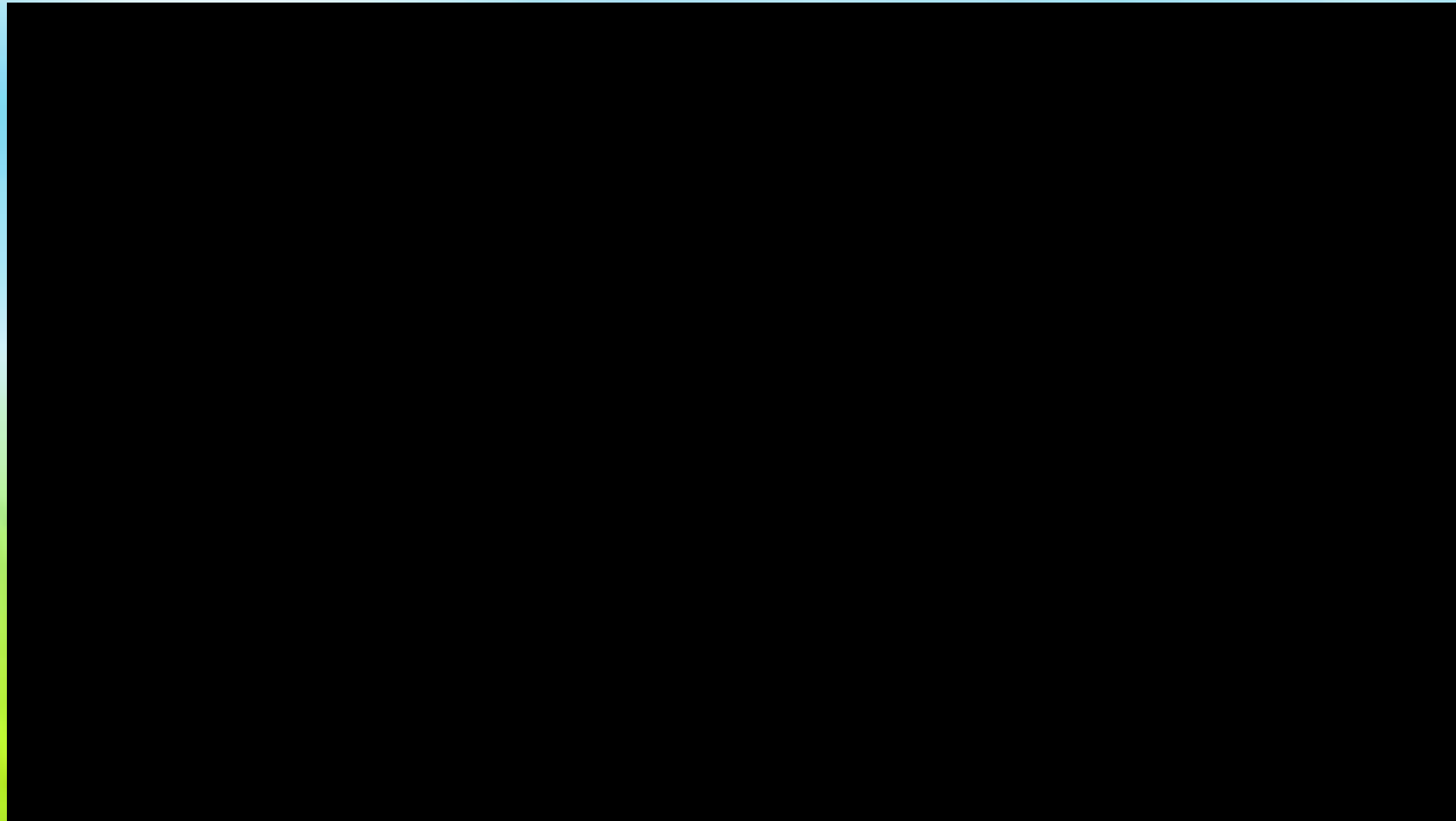
**Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committee**

**September 22, 2021**

**Submitted by Regan Pemberton and Chris Filler on behalf of School Age Programmers**

# Summer Camp 2021 Welcome Video

“We Can’t Wait To See You This Summer”



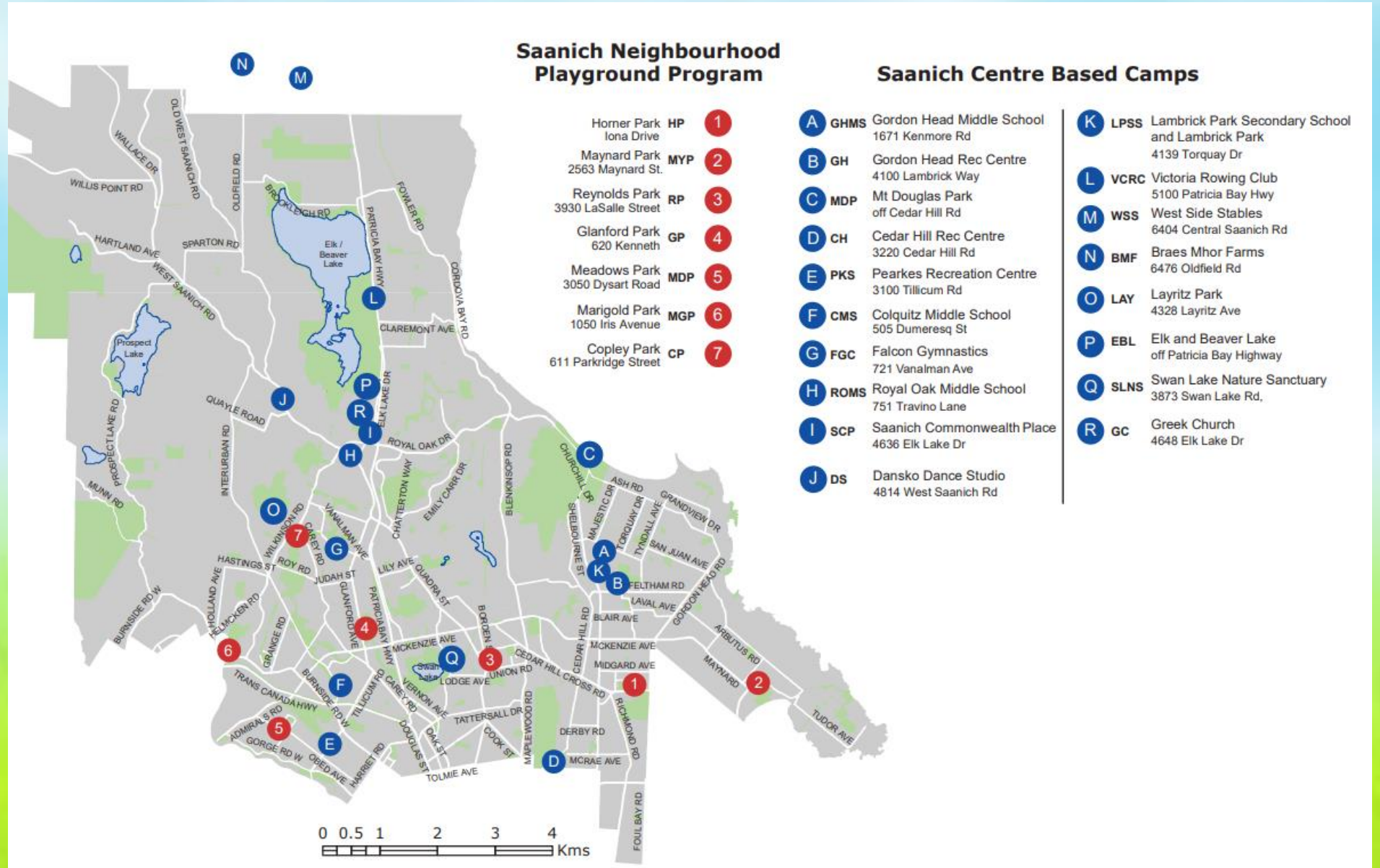


# Statistics & Highlights

- 500+ summer camps and programs offered to our Saanich community
- 8,000+ registrations (~2,000 families)
- 65+ amazing summer staff
- 20+ WYLD Volunteers
- 20+ partnering orgs and services
- 60% increase in Canada Summer Jobs grant (\$38,304)
- \$1,000,000+ in registration revenue (~ \$700,000 net)



# Statistics & Highlights





# Why Saanich Summer Camps?

- Because we have the best trained & supported staff!
- Because we have the best facilities and parks!
- Because we have the best reception, registration and maintenance support!
- Because we go the extra mile to support families!
- Because we care and want our kids to have **THE BEST SUMMER** experience with us!



# How... do we do summer camps?

- By attracting, recruiting, hiring and training the best summer camp leaders in the region.
- By providing diverse activities and experiences which are creative and responsive to the changing needs of our participants.
- By integrating all children through staff education and creative programming which encourages equal opportunity, accessibility, and self-expression





# Saanich Neighborhood Playground Program (SNPP)

- Increase in Inclusion Participants huge success, over 60 spaces filled in SNPP camps.
- Are we meeting our target? Increased usage of our LIFE spaces, 85 reserved space used 2020, 115 in 2021!



## SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUND PROGRAM (SNPP)

### IT'S ALL IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD!

**SNPP TIME AND DATES**  
Camp runs from 8:45am to 4pm Monday to Friday June 28 to Sept. 3.

**SNPP AGES**  
5 1/2 to 11yrs – All children attending must be eligible for Grade 1 in September 2021.

**SNPP PRICES**  
\$85 weekly – Monday to Friday, 5-day week  
\$68 weekly – 4-day week accommodating Canada Day and BC Day holidays.

**L.I.F.E. CLIENTS**  
This low-cost program is designed to be affordable for every family. SNPP holds six spots per week per location for participants in our L.I.F.E. program. For more information about the L.I.F.E. program please contact [mena.westhaver@saanich.ca](mailto:mena.westhaver@saanich.ca)

**CHECK THIS OUT!**  
**BREAKOUT ADVENTURE CAMP**  
Aging out of SNPP? Check out our awesome daycamp for kids 10 to 14yrs.

This summer we're kickin' it old school! We're committed to bringing back that feeling of community in the only way we know how – through fantastically fun, amazingly awesome and chaotically creative local camps with all your neighbourhood friends. We're doing our part to help fight climate change – so join us by carpooling, grab your bike, scooter or skateboard or just put on those walking shoes and meet us at the park! We can't wait to enjoy what the super-natural environment has to offer – right in our own backyards. Build a beach fort, play an epic battle of axes in the forest, get soaked with crazy water games, and use your imagination as we engage with all things creative. Our themes, activities, walking out trips and experiences will be based on campers' interest in collaboration and guidance with our summer camp counsellor team.

Saanich Neighbourhood Playground Program		Program times: Monday to Friday 8:45am to 4pm									
PARKS	LOCATION	WEEK 1 Jun 28 - Jul 2 \$68	WEEK 2 Jul 5-9 \$85	WEEK 3 Jul 12-16 \$85	WEEK 4 Jul 19-23 \$85	WEEK 5 Jul 26 - Jul 30 \$85	WEEK 6 Aug 3-6 \$68	WEEK 7 Aug 9-13 \$85	WEEK 8 Aug 16-20 \$85	WEEK 9 Aug 23-27 \$85	WEEK 10 Aug 30 - Sep 3 \$85
<b>COPLEY PARK WEST</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Rogers Elementary • Northridge Elementary • McKenzie Elementary • Strawberry Vale Elementary</small>	611 Parkridge St.	57211	57212	57213	57214	57215	57216	57217	57218	57219	57220
<b>MARIGOLD PARK</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Marigold Elementary • Strawberry Vale Elementary • Tillicum Elementary</small>	1051 Iris Ave.	57530	57531	57532	57533	57534	57535	57536	57537	57538	NA
<b>MEADOW PARK*</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Tillicum Elementary • Craigflower Elementary • Marigold Elementary • McKenzie Elementary</small>	3050 Dysart Rd.	57615	57616	57617	57618	57619	57620	57621	57622	57623	57624
<b>REYNOLDS PARK*</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Braefoot Elementary • Lakahl Elementary • Doncaster Elementary • Quadra Elementary • Cloverdale Traditional School</small>	Reynolds Road: 3930 LaSalle St.	57511	57512	57513	57514	57515	57516	57517	57518	57519	57520
<b>GLANFORD PARK</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Northridge Elementary • Mackenzie Elementary • Rogers Elementary • Strawberry Vale</small>	620 Kenneth St.	57963	57964	57965	57966	57967	57968	57969	57970	57971	57973
<b>HORNER PARK</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Doncaster Elementary • Braefoot Elementary • Campus View Elementary • Frank Hobbs Elementary</small>	Iona Dr.	57340	57341	57342	57343	57344	57345	57346	57347	57348	NA
<b>MAYNARD PARK</b> <small>Neighbourhood schools close to this park • Frank Hobbs Elementary • Campus View Elementary • Torquay Elementary • Hillcrest Elementary • Braefoot Elementary</small>	2563 Maynard St.	57606	57607	57608	57609	57610	57611	57612	57613	57614	NA

# Leadership Development – WYLD and Outdoor

- New Reality = New Challenges
- 20 WYLD Leader Spaces each volunteering 2-4 weeks
- Mentored leadership placements
- Develop life, leadership & day camp skills





# Fun Facts, Testimonials, Warm Fuzzies....

- Parents Appreciation
  - A safe harbour in COVID Times
  - Inclusion families
- WYLD Leader – From Volunteer to Staff!
- Campers say (& remember...) the darndest things!



# Moving Forward...

- Offering camps in new normal 2022
- Focus on recruitment and retention
- Balance expansion and quality







PARKS, RECREATION  
& COMMUNITY SERVICES

**REPORT TO:** Parks, Trails & Recreation Committee, Environmental and Natural Areas, and Healthy Saanich Committees

**DATE:** September 13, 2021

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

**SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – September 13, 2021**

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The following update is provided for Committees:

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

#### **Park user groups:**

The Parks Division had an extremely busy summer with internal and external user groups returning to activities in parks they love as the BC Restart Plan planned rolled out. The big change was the return of adult sports and loosening of restrictions for outdoor events and gatherings! Many spring sports were extended into summer which Parks accommodated by adjusting operational and administration protocols.

Going into Fall, we expect activities to return to high participation levels with the usuals fall sports, Saanich Recreation and Community Services and School District 61 and 63 and independent school sports, programs and outtrips. Parks staff anticipate a high volume of permit requests.

In 2021 so far, the Parks Division has created more than 480 permits, for internal groups (Recreation and Community Services), external groups and SD61 and SD63 and independent school programs.

Staff acknowledge the efforts of internal and external users groups for their ongoing diligence and efforts in meeting Provincial Health Officer's requirements for a safe return to activities. It has truly been an community effort to keep participants safe during the pandemic. We look forward to continue working with our community as we steer out of this pandemic.

#### **Park Stewardship Update:**

##### **Youth Stewardship in Parks**

We continue to support school groups in parks such as Haro Woods, Feltham Park and

Marigold Parks. One class from Lambrick Middle School engaged in a ongoing partnership with Feltham Park and the Pulling Together volunteers. All involved, including volunteers, staff, educators and students found this to be a very rewarding experience. The group studied and surveyed the site, then carefully removed invasive species such as Daphne, English Ivy and Himalayan Blackberry using best management practices. We look forward to providing more stewardship partnerships opportunities with local schools.



Lambrick students and volunteers at Feltham Park

### **Pulling Together and Park Ambassador Volunteers**

Pulling Together and Park Ambassador volunteers had a little break during the summer heat wave, but are now busy again stewarding Saanich Parks. In line with the BC Restart Plan, we have created a stepped resumption plan to safely allow volunteers to work in parks. This is an exciting and busy time, as we continue to support a vibrant volunteer team, respond to increased interest from the community and plan for larger community stewardship events and programs in the fall.

### **Launch of UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, World Environment Day and Make a Difference Week**

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to host an open community event to mark the launch of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) and [Make a Difference Week](#), but we were none the less very busy. From June 5<sup>th</sup> to June 11, there were community stewardship volunteers active in parks every day. This included 150 youth from three local schools, on four different days, removing invasive species while adhering to Covid protocols. Regular Pulling Together volunteers met in different parks every day of the week, such as Cedar Hill, Phyllis, and Bruce Hutchison Parks just to name a few. Mount Douglas Park Ambassadors were out on the trails greeting visitors and sharing their incredible knowledge about the park.



Pulling Together and Park Ambassador volunteers making a difference in Parks

### **iNaturalist Training**

Park Ambassador volunteers participated in a training on using the citizen science app iNaturalist to learn about and document biodiversity in Mount Douglas Park. This tool has gained huge popularity and we look forward to others in our volunteer community and beyond to contribute observations, and become part of this growing community of naturalists.



Learning and documenting biodiversity in Mount Douglas Park

### **Park Planning and Development**

#### **Planning and Design Section:**

#### **Haro Woods – Finnerty Creek Restoration**

Planning work is underway for the Natural Areas crew to work with a consultant in September – October to define the stream channel, control erosion, and improve riparian areas and habitat for wildlife.

#### **Food Truck Pilot Program**

The Pilot wrapped up on September 8. Feedback collected from park users and vendors will be reflected in a report to Council and will help to inform decisions regarding continuation of the program.



### **Accessible Public Washrooms**

Washrooms previously available only for park user groups were converted and made available to the public at Horner, Hyacinth, Reynolds and Rudd Parks.

### **Pop up Dog Parks Pilot Project**

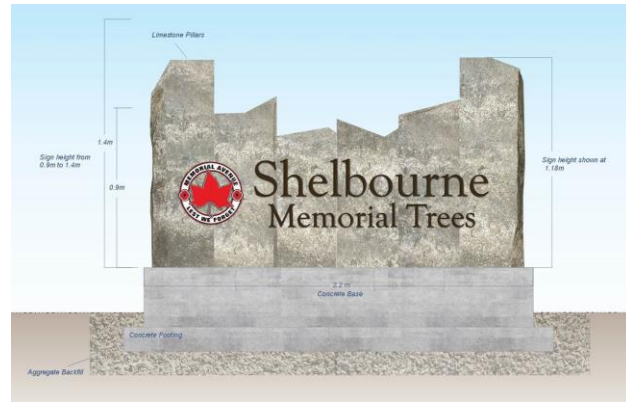
The pilot ended on September 7. Staff are working on a summary report which will be presented later this fall. The data will be shared with the consultant hired for the People, Pet and Parks Strategy.

### **People, Pet and Parks Strategy**

Staff have begun work on an RFP to hire an external consultant for this project.

### **Shelbourne Street of Unfinished Dreams (Memorial Avenue) Gateposts**

Parks and Engineering staff have been working with City of Victoria engineers on the development of the gatepost signs which will be installed later this month in time to mark the the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary (October 2) of when the first of the London plane trees were planted on Shelbourne St. The sign at the Saanich end of Shelbourne will be at the the corner of Cedar Hill Road and Shelbourne (just south of Mount Douglas Park) and the City of Victoria's is at the corner of Denman and Shelbourne (already partially constructed). The sandstone for the sign is from the old Customs House which is being renovated at the corner of Government and Yates Street. The stone was donated to Saanich by Banyon Construction who is re-constructing that building. The City of Victoria sign will be constructed of granite once used for curbs in downtown Victoria.



### **Noise issues relating to the game of Pickleball**

Staff are currently preparing a Report to Council reviewing the noise complaints resulting from this sport and some possible mitigation measures to consider.

### **Allenby Park Playground and Sportcourt Improvements**

Play equipment has been ordered for the playground replacement project at Allenby Park. Additional comments helped shaped the final playground chosen. New playground renderings have been shared on the website. Construction drawings are underway and will include a new playground footprint, upgraded sportcourt with two basketball hoops and two hockey nets, new main pathway through the park, new park furniture and tree planting and an imaginative natural play area with sand. Construction is anticipated to start mid fall.



**Quick’s Bottom Park Arboretum**

This new and exciting project is about to start in early September on the piece of parkland in Quick’s Bottom Park located off of Wilkinson Road. Phase I includes 76 new trees to be planted with a new main gravel trail and looping pathways to view the arboretum. A small parking lot and driveway will be constructed for access to the site. Future work will provide information signs to further enhance the visitor experience. This project will be phased over several years.

**Construction Section:**

Normandy Park is about 90%complete. Work left to do is irrigation, landscaping, tree planting in the fall, and planting of garden bed.

Hampton Park parking lot – the construction of a plaza is underway.

Cuthbert Holmes Park - trail construction underway to relocate the main trail away from the river.

Jenkins Pond Park - construction of boulder retaining wall and dedicated bench installed.

Trail repairs and graffiti removal are ongoing.

**Park Operations**

**Maintenance Section:**

Refuse, washrooms, dumping in parks, tennis/pickleball, parking lots maintenance are all very busy. Field maintenance is ongoing. Baseball season was extended through the summer by most clubs as they had a late start due to Covid 19. Fall ball is about to begin at some clubs. Soccer season is upon us and we are out making sure that the



fields are ready to go for September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parks shop is busy as we are heading into our second busiest time of the year for repairs.

### **Horticulture Section:**

The annual beds are looking spectacular and we will be switching over to bulbs and winter plantings as they decline in the coming weeks. Annual orders and layouts for the displays are being put together for next year. The trim crews are preparing for the fall season which at some point will include leaf collection in our parks.

### **Urban Forestry Section:**

The warm dry summer weather has kept the Urban Forestry team extremely busy. Our two aerial lift trucks have been working at capacity dealing with the increased call volume that we have continued to experience since Covid-19 began. With kids on their summer break, we've focused our hazard tree mitigation and canopy raising efforts around schools (and routes). We've also been busy pruning along major transit routes in response to calls from BC Transit about tree limbs hitting their double decker buses.

Our boulevard tree watering program continues to try to keep our young trees alive in this prolonged period of drought. We have two full time, and one part time watering trucks out making over 3000 watering stops a month. Staff have done an amazing job this year with this sometimes monotonous job.

Our stump grinding program started up on August 30, in preparation for this winter's replacement tree planting program.

Supervisory staff continue to review Engineering, Fortis and Telus drawings for tree impacts, and provide onsite arborist supervision for Public Works projects. Staff have also finalized tree planting designs, and tree orders for this winter's upcoming planting season.

### **Natural Areas Section:**

#### **Mount Douglas Bridge and Trail**

The Fisheries window has brought two significant creek enhancement projects to the Natural Areas section in conjunction with the Parks Construction crew and the Public Works Creeks and Waterways crew. The new Douglas Creek Bridge has been installed between Churchill Trail and Douglas Trail, close to the Edgemont park entrance. A ~40m section of Douglas Creek received ~90 tons of boulders and ~60 tons of river rock to improve bank stability, restore Salmon spawning



beds and enhance fish habitat. Along with the rock, several logs and stumps were strategically placed to improve fish habitat. Working closely with Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society, the Natural Areas crew built an interactive viewing area at the west side of the bridge. This multi-level area (including rustic rock steps) will be the centre point for future Salmon carcass toss and Fry release events with the public and school youth groups.

### **Cuthbert Holmes Park/Colquitz River Project**

Saanich Parks has been working closely with biologist Dave Clough for close to a decade on creek enhancements in Douglas Creek, Swan Creek and Colquitz Creek to name a few. The section of Colquitz Creek, for this year, is within Cuthbert Holmes Park just behind Silver City Theatre. The Construction section is currently working on the new pathway on the south side of the creek while Natural Areas along with the Creeks and Waterways crew are creating large fish-habitat alcoves/channels. These new creek habitat areas were designed to capture daily tidal



flooding but also natural rainwater drainage. This creek work is part of the Trembling Aspen grove restoration project that is being funded by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure environmental mitigation funds from the Highway 1 interchange. Dry-land structures, to improve terrestrial habitat, will include large woody debris (logs & stumps), boulders, and wildlife trees. These channels will offer juvenile Chum Salmon and returning Coho Salmon protection from predators and feeding spots as the move up or down the river.

Other Natural Areas activities include continuing support for the Pulling Together Volunteer program and invasive plant removals, including Poison Hemlock, Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Purple Loosestrife and others. The restoration watering truck will run until the end of September or until significant rain occurs. We are planning for our usual 30 plus restoration planting sites this year including the annual Tree Appreciation Day event happening at McMinn Park this November. National Tree Day will be celebrated on September 22 by planting Big-leaf Maple trees at the new Douglas Creek bridge site. The crew continues to support restoration planting sites, the Garry Oak Dripline projects and new protective fencing initiatives.