

Revised to include receipt of correspondence

**AGENDA**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

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In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure social distancing, this meeting is closed to the public and can be viewed/heard via MS Teams. Please note that MS Teams callers are identified by their phone number which can be viewed on screen by all attendees at the meeting.

To hear this meeting by telephone call **1-833-214-3122** and use code **369 707 815#** during the time noted above.

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

- 1. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**
  - Chair's welcome
  - Introduction of Committee members
- 2. 2022 MEETING DATES / TERMS OF REFERENCE** (attachment)
- 3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES** (attachment)
  - November 24, 2021
- 4. BOWKER CREEK**
  - Presentation by Mike Goldsworthy
  - **Receipt of Correspondence**
- 5. UPDATE ON PICKLE BALL COURT**
  - Presentation by Julie Lommerse
  - **Receipt of Correspondence**
- 6. 2022 POP UP DOG PARK LOCATION OPTIONS AND PROGRAM TWEAKS**
  - Presentation by Becky Goodall
- 7. FIELD NAMING AT LAYRITZ PARK** **\*New item added\***
  - Mariners baseball team representative, Keith Davidoff, to present to Committee
- 8. ADJOURNMENT**

**\* Adjournment \***

**Next Meeting: February 23, 2022**

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

## Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee 2022 Meeting Dates:

**January 26, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**February 23, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**March 23, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**April 27, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**May 25, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**June 22, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**September 28, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**October 26, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**November 23, 2022**

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Note about meetings:

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established annually at the first meeting of the year. No meetings are held during summer and winter breaks (July, August, and December). Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair.

(Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, 2021)

# Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

## Terms of Reference

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### Purpose

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

### Mandate

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

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

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

### Meetings

The Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established annually at the first meeting of the year. No meetings are held during the summer and winter breaks (July, August and December). Special meetings may be held at the call of the Chair. The meeting rules and procedures will be in accordance with the Council Procedure Bylaw.

### Membership

To the extent possible, Advisory Committees will have a diverse membership with respect to gender, age and cultural-ethnic background.

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

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

Members may serve a maximum of seven years on an Advisory Committee, consisting of a one-year term followed by a potential for three, two-year terms. Members who wish to be re-appointed after the completion of a term must re-apply and provide the application and their resume for Council's consideration.

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

# **Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee**

## **Terms of Reference**

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### **Staff Support**

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

### **Review of Terms of Reference**

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

## **Parks Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee – Staff Contacts:**

**Eva Riccius**, Senior Manager Parks

[Eva.riccius@saanich.ca](mailto:Eva.riccius@saanich.ca)

**Tiana Solares**, Senior Manager Recreation

[Tiana.solares@saanich.ca](mailto:Tiana.solares@saanich.ca)

**Cristina Caravaca**, Senior Manager Community Services

[Cristina.caravaca@saanich.ca](mailto:Cristina.caravaca@saanich.ca)

**Nancy Chaggar**, Senior Committee Clerk

[Nancy.chaggar@saanich.ca](mailto:Nancy.chaggar@saanich.ca)

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**November 24, 2021 at 4:07 pm**

Present: Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair), Ted Austin, Kathleen Burton (via Teams), Leigh Campbell, Pamela Carroll, Pat Danforth (via Teams), Amy-Jade Louie

Staff: Eva Riccius, Senior Manager Parks; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager, Recreation; Gary Darrah, Manager, Parks Planning and Development; Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Lynn Merry, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Annie Djioetsa, Lyndsay Edgar and Dexter Owen

Guest: Cara Gibson, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society

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**MINUTES**

**MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the minutes of the June 23, 2021, September 13, 2021 and October 27, 2021 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meetings be approved.”**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIR’S REMARKS**

Council has approved the committee appointments. Currently there is a vacancy for a Youth Representative on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee. Further advertising will take place to fill vacancies on all committees.

Recently, Councillor Brownoff was a speaker at the International Federation of Aging conference and talked about Saanich’s programs in parks, recreation and community services for older adults.

**2022-2024 PARKS AND RECREATION FEES AND CHARGES**

The Senior Manager, Recreation presented on the 2022-2024 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges noting:

- Fees and charges have not increased since 2020.
- The sale of annual passes resumed in July 2021 at the 2020 rates.
- Staff are proposing an increase of 2% per year for three years for recreation fees and rental rates; this is a manageable increase which will help offsets costs for the municipality.
- Room rentals dropped off completely due to COVID but is expected to pick up in 2022.
- Local market conditions were considered to ensure Saanich fees are in line with other municipalities.
- A 1% increase is proposed for ice rental rates as it was at the highest market rate in the region.
- Racket sports is proposed to increase by 3% as the market will bear such rates.
- Annual reviews to evaluate rates will continue as part of the budget process and there is an ability to reduce rates if needed.

- Proof of vaccination continue to impact revenue.
- Recreation Centres are currently operating at normal capacity.
- The intent is to maintain the 60% subsidization rate.
- A review of golf services was done last year and outlines a five year plan to set rates.
- Despite a six week closure due to COVID, over 48,000 rounds were played in 2020 and again in 2021.
- Initial increases for green fees from between 3%-10% are proposed; this would amount to an approximate \$3 increase per round; a 1.5% increase is proposed through 2024-2025.
- The annual pass will be phased out although current pass holders will have the opportunity to purchase the pass at the 2022-2023 rate for one additional year (2023-2024).
- A flex pass will be introduced in 2023 which will replace the annual pass; the flex pass will require a \$350 upfront payment and will include a discount on rounds.
- The flex pass will keep rates competitive and modernize the pass system to be in line with industry standards.
- Renovations on the Club House are almost complete and the space will be rentable soon.
- Food and beverage services will be contracted out.
- Based on an environmental scan, there will be no change to park permit fees, other than commercial rates.

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by T. Austin: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee endorse the 2022-2024 Parks and Recreation Fees and Charges.”**

**CARRIED**

## **FOOD TRUCKS PILOT PROJECT – RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Senior Manager, Parks, Manager, Parks Planning and Development and the Park Planner Designer presented the Food Truck Pilot Project (PowerPoint on file) noting:

- The Food Truck Pilot Project ran from July 1-September 8, 2021.
- A lottery system was used to choose the food trucks that would participate in the pilot; in the end, all vendors that applied had the opportunity to participate.
- In order to permit food truck operations, Temporary Use Permits (TUPs) were registered on each of the proposed locations; TUPs are valid for three years and may be renewed for an additional three year term.
- Vendors were required to be self-sufficient for water and power, use generators that complied with the Noise Bylaw and provide their own garbage, recycling and compost bins.
- Business licenses were issue free of charge.
- There were some issues around scheduling and with larger rigs fitting into allocated spaces; the space allocated for the Gorge Waterway was too small for the bigger rigs.
- Surveys ran throughout the summer with only 22 responses; responses were generally favourable with suggestions for increased advertising and ensuring vendors know when special events are taking place so that they can plan accordingly for product.
- Staff recommend continuing the program with the following recommendations for 2022:
  - Vendors pay for their business licenses.
  - Utilize Beckwith and Cadboro-Gyro Parks more.
  - Increase advertising.
  - Reduce the number of vendors participating to ensure scheduling is manageable. The more vendors the fewer opportunities that can be offered to them.
- Garbage was not a concern.

**MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by A. Louie: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends to Council to continue the Food Truck Program as outlined in the recommendations in the report of the Manager of Park Planning and Development dated September 23, 2021.”**

**CARRIED**

### **CECILIA CREEK RAVINE FALLS DAYLIGHTING**

The Manager, Parks Planning and Design presented the Cecilia Creek Ravine Falls Concept (PowerPoint on file) and commented:

- In 2020, Council directed staff to report on options to achieve the vision of the Cecilia Creek Falls Park and funding options with partner organizations.
- Daylighting the creek was investigated in 2009 and the estimated cost would be \$150,000-\$200,000 with an estimated annual maintenance cost of \$3,500-\$5,000.
- The plan was never implemented due to the high costs and other priorities.
- A 600 mm storm drain carries water through the Inverness road allowance; water would be diverted through the park.
- A sign has been erected in the park.
- Because of the elevation, there would be a need to excavate approximately 10 feet to get to the creek; it is very expensive to excavate.
- Options are to maintain the status quo, focus on an interpretative installation and minor park improvements or installation of a dry creek bed closer to the surface to commemorate the historical creek.
- This area will be studied as part of Saanich’s Stormwater Management Plan.
- The benefits of the project do not outweigh the significant costs and site disturbances required.
- It is not funded in the five year capital plan.
- Other sources of funding such as grants may be available; \$15,000 in a developer amenity contribution is currently available however it is not nearly enough to fulfil the original plan for daylighting.
- Rain gardens are not recommended due to the need for irrigation to supplement watering in the summer.
- There is potential for redevelopment in the area which may add to the community amenity funds.
- A detailed costing of options has not been done.

The committee made the following comments:

- The creek may have be the site of historical Indigenous use which may have implications for interpretation and excavation.

**MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council direct staff to:**

- **Consider an interpretive installation and minor park improvements using the Community Amenity Funds; and**
- **Explore the opportunities and costs of the creation of a dry creek bed to commemorate the historical creek.”**



**CARRIED**

### **BIRD FRIENDLY CITY**

C. Gibson, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society (SLCHNS) and the Senior Manager, Parks made the following comments:

- There is an opportunity to apply through Nature Canada to become a Bird Friendly City; this aligns with Saanich's Natural Intelligence program.
- Saanich already meets many of the criteria for the designation including restoring nature to ensure bird populations thrive.
- SLCHNS and Saanich Parks has formed a Bird Team to increase the awareness of birds in the city.
- The community would be engaged to name a City Bird.
- The Nature House windows are being updated and SLCHNS will be doing education around bird collisions.

**MOVED by K. Burton and Seconded by L. Campbell: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that Council:**

- 1. Pass a motion to formally nominate Saanich to become a Bird Friendly City and provide a letter to Nature Canada with the motion as part of the Saanich application; and**
- 2. Direct staff to initiate a community engagement in partnership with the Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary Society to name a City Bird."**

**CARRIED**

### **POP UP DOG PARKS**

**MOVED by T. Austin and Seconded by A. Louie: "That the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee supports that staff review and report back on Pop Up Dog Parks for 2022 including the budget needs."**

The committee made the following comments:

- Parks with shade should be considered.
- Pop Up Dog Parks provide a social aspect for dog owners.

**The Motion was then Put and CARRIED**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is January 26, 2022

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary

## Nancy Chaggar

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**From:** Eva Riccius  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** Nancy Chaggar  
**Cc:** Tiana Solares  
**Subject:** FW: Pickleball - Tolmie Park

Hi Nancy – pls add this to the PTR package in January. Thanks, Eva

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**From:** Suzanne Samborski  
**Sent:** January-18-22 4:02 PM  
**To:** Tiana Solares <Tiana.Solares@saanich.ca>; Eva Riccius <Eva.Riccius@saanich.ca>  
**Cc:** Judy Brownoff <Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Pickleball - Tolmie Park

Councillor Brownoff has asked this be added to PTR as correspondence.

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**From:** Rob Harvey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:25 PM  
**To:** Suzanne Samborski <[Suzanne.Samborski@saanich.ca](mailto:Suzanne.Samborski@saanich.ca)>; 'Dino Bruno' [REDACTED] Mayor <[Mayor.Mayor@saanich.ca](mailto:Mayor.Mayor@saanich.ca)>  
**Cc:** Albert Nussbaum [REDACTED]; Brent Reems <[Brent.Reems@saanich.ca](mailto:Brent.Reems@saanich.ca)>; Judy Brownoff <[Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca](mailto:Judy.Brownoff@saanich.ca)>; JoAnne Nelson [REDACTED] Megan Atkins-Baker [REDACTED] susan haddon [REDACTED]; Karen Harper <[Karen.Harper@saanich.ca](mailto:Karen.Harper@saanich.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Pickleball - Tolmie Park

Dear Suzanne Samborski,

1. Thank you for advising that you will be presenting a plan and recommendations from an independent assessment of the sound attenuation panels at Tolmie Park to the PTR Advisory Committee on January 26.
2. I am cc'ing this email to the Chair of PTR, Councillor Judy Brownoff, asking that she forward it to PTR members so that they have all the relevant information. I also ask Councillor Brownoff to encourage her committee members to visit the district's two dedicated outdoor pickleball courts, one at Tolmie Park and the other at McMinn Park, to compare the distances from the pickleball courts to the nearest residences. At Tolmie Park the distance from the pickleball courts to the nearest property line is only 5 metres, while at McMinn Park the distance is about 70 metres. As they say on Sesame Street, "one of these things is not like the other one".
3. The pickleball courts at Tolmie Park are far too close to our residences for any sound panels to significantly reduce the noise of paddles striking hard plastic balls and the players' loud vocalizations which we experience all day, every day. Your manager informed me that Saanich Parks' own testing of at least two different kinds of panels produced "not very impressive results". Decibel readings may be reduced a little right behind the proposed 9 foot fence but most of the noise will simply fly over the fence. Spending an estimated \$45,000 to install these panels would be a waste of money, especially considering that this sum would pay for about half the cost of building new courts in a more suitable location.

4. The new *Saanich Guidelines for Distances and Mitigation Measures for Pickleball Courts* approved by Saanich Council October 4, 2021 begins with "Not develop pickleball courts within 50 metres of neighbouring homes -- unless major sound abatement is installed (the courts at Tolmie Park fall within this category)". Your department estimates that the nearest residence is 22 metres away from the pickleball courts and this is indicated in the diagram. Why are we not allowed the right to enjoy some peace and quiet in our own backyards, right up to our property lines which I've already described as being as close as 5 metres from the courts?

5. Even going with the distance of 22 metres to the house wall of our closest residence, this is still much closer than 50 metres, and installing sound panels on a fence is NOT a major sound abatement measure, at least not according to the Vancouver Pickleball Association, whose article is cited as a reference in your staff report. Please read: <https://vancouverpickleball.ca/2021/03/28/unfortunately-pickleball-in-urban-centres-often-comes-with-noise-complaints/> The VPA states that "Pickleball courts within 30 metres of the closest residence are not recommended". *\*Not recommended. Period. That's it. No mitigation methods are considered. - RH\** It's only when the distance rises to 50 metres that VPA recommends installing sod or earthen berms, which qualifies as a major method. Less effective measures like sound-deadening barriers and fences are only considered when there are 70 metres available.

6. In case you think the VPA is being overly generous with space and overstating the need for setbacks, please remember that this is an association dedicated to advancing the cause of pickleball and note that it describes the noise generated by pickleball play as "the constant tick tick tick of paddle against ball accentuated by a constant burble of conversation", a claim that understates how penetrating and distressing this noise is. At least they got the "constant" part right. If there were only "ticks" and "burbles" I wouldn't have to write this letter.

7. I can understand that you would like to come up with a technical solution that would please everyone, but this isn't going to be possible. We do not blame anyone for making the mistake of constructing the pickleball courts too close to our residences. Five years ago no one really knew how much noisier pickleball was than tennis, nor how incredibly popular it would become. At this point the best solution would be to consider the Tolmie Park pickleball courts experience as a pilot which provides valuable information moving forward and to remove the courts, as Mayor Haynes proposed in a motion, seconded by Councillor Harper, at the October 4, 2021 council meeting.

8. You will be aware of the recent letters-to-the-editor in the Saanich News by myself and by the President of the Victoria Regional Pickleball Association. What you may not know is that during our phone conversation she volunteered that "over one-third of our members live in Saanich". I replied, "Oh, so you mean that less than one-half of your members actually live in Saanich?". She confirmed: "Yes, er, a little less than one-half". She herself lives in Oak Bay and I have spoken to players who say they drive in from Sooke and Central Saanich. She also told me that her members who like to play at Tolmie Park work out their schedules so that they show up to play, one group after another, in one-hour blocks throughout the day.

9. What I can't understand is why so much effort is being made to please and accommodate a special interest group of pickleballers who drive in to our small neighbourhood park, the majority of whom do not even live in Saanich; and why so little regard is being given to the mental health of Tolmie Park neighbours, families who are Saanich taxpayers with strong ties in the community.

10. Please remove the pickleball courts at Tolmie Park.

Yours sincerely,

Rob

Rob Harvey  
[REDACTED]

On 2021-12-09 12:36 PM, Suzanne Samborski wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Bruno,

Thank you for your email. I have been asked to respond on the Mayor's behalf.

The District is in the final stages of testing the sound attenuation panels. The final stage for staff is to have an independent assessment completed. Staff will be presenting information and recommendations to PTR in January.

The January PTR meeting is scheduled for January 26<sup>th</sup> if you want to mark it on your calendar.

<<<[Reference to a Saanich personnel matter removed by Rob Harvey.]

Regards,

Suzanne

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**From:** Dino Bruno [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 09, 2021 9:43 AM  
**To:** Mayor <[Mayor.Mayor@saanich.ca](mailto:Mayor.Mayor@saanich.ca)>  
**Cc:** Albert Nussbaum [REDACTED]; ROB HARVEY [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** (External Email) Pickleball - Tolmie Park

**This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.**

Good morning Mayor Haynes,

<<< [Reference to a Saanich personnel matter removed by Rob Harvey.]

The new barrier has been up for at least two weeks and we have had no report of testing from [Saanich Parks]. We have done our own testing and the results are negligible.

As a further insult, players who are waiting for their opponents are using the board to practice.

We would like to put forward that this soundproofing is useless and would like it removed.

D. Brown

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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We acknowledge that the District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the WJOLELP (Tsartlip), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), SṪÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

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## Nancy Chaggar

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**From:** Ian Graeme [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 26, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** Judy Brownoff  
**Cc:** Nancy Chaggar  
**Subject:** (External Email) January PTR Committee meeting - Bowker Greenway  
**Attachments:** Saanich\_Council\_Oct18\_2021.pdf; Bowker Creek Trail - a long time coming (1).pdf

**This email sent from outside the District of Saanich. Use caution if message is unexpected or sender is not known to you.**

Councillor Judy Brownoff  
Chair, Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee

Dear Councillor Brownoff,

I understand you may be discussing the Bowker Creek Greenway at your January committee meeting. I would appreciate it if you could circulate this email for the committee's reference.

As described in my attached letter to Council there is a long history to this project and many references in existing policy and plans -- within both Saanich and the adjacent municipalities of Victoria and Oak Bay.

Some potential near-term opportunities within Saanich might include leveraging:

- Council's support for quicker progress on its Active Transportation Strategy and Saanich's "Vision Zero"
- Ongoing work of the Bowker Creek Initiative (integration with environmental and stormwater management, and across municipalities)
- Bowker Creek Initiative [Daylighting Feasibility Study](#) recommendations (completed in 2020)
- Cedar Hill Middle School replacement project (greenways connections and Safe Routes to School)
- SD61's proposed Land Disposals at Lansdowne South and Lansdowne North (exercising existing Statutory Rights-of-Way secured in 2007)
- Support of senior cabinet ministers whose ridings include the Bowker Creek watershed.

While a continuous, dedicated greenway will take many years and require more detailed planning and property acquisition, perhaps signing more sections of the route itself in the short-term, will help to build broad support and accelerate implementation.

I support the efforts and commitment of Saanich Parks and Planning staff and am happy to provide any assistance.

Regards,

Ian Graeme  
CELL: [REDACTED]

CC:  
Friends of Bowker Creek Society  
Bowker Creek Initiative



October 18, 2021

Mayor and Council  
District of Saanich  
770 Vernon Avenue  
Victoria, BC V8W 3E7

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Re: October 18, 2021 Council Agenda Item J.2 – Active Transportation Projects**

I support the Motion of the Mayor and Councillors Harper and Plant

*“That Council ask the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to consider and recommend short-term and/or pilot projects to improve road safety/active transportation within the District of Saanich where Active Transportation projects are determined medium-to long-term priority areas.”*

While Saanich’s [Active Transportation Plan 2020 Report Card](#) indicates excellent progress in many areas, the review suggests that the District is behind in some areas including. In addition to cycling network improvements, I would also like to see expanded focus on the municipal trail/greenway network including investment in the Bowker Creek Greenway.

The Bowker Creek Greenway/Multi-use Trail and its connections is a long-standing vision embedded in a many regional and municipal planning documents including the following:

- [1998 Shelbourne Local Area Plan](#)
- [2000 Saanich Green/Blue Spaces: A Framework for Action](#)
- [2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan](#)
- 2003 Centennial Trails 2006 and Beyond – Phase 2
- [2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint](#)
- [2017 Shelbourne Valley Action Plan](#)
- [2018 Saanich Active Transportation Plan](#)

Saanich built approximately 400 metres in 2007, but the route remains incomplete. This regional/subregional multi-use trail provides an opportunity to “plug in” the Major Growth Nodes at Hillside Centre, Shelbourne Village, University Heights and the Jubilee Hospital precinct – all of which are currently disconnected from the Regional Trails Network (see attached). The Bowker Creek Greenway/Multi-Use Trail is also referenced in the plans of adjacent municipalities including the [City of Victoria Greenways Plan \(2003\)](#) and the [District of Oak Bay’s Active Transportation Strategy \(2011\)](#).

While restoration of the creek channel itself will take decades, many sections of the Bowker Creek Greenway can be routed along existing Rights-of-Way and low-volume residential streets in the near-term at modest cost. Investment in linear parks and trails consistently rates high in [Saanich Citizen Satisfaction surveys](#). The network also dovetails well with Saanich’s recent acquisition of the Kings Road Community Nature Space (former BC Htdro Property)

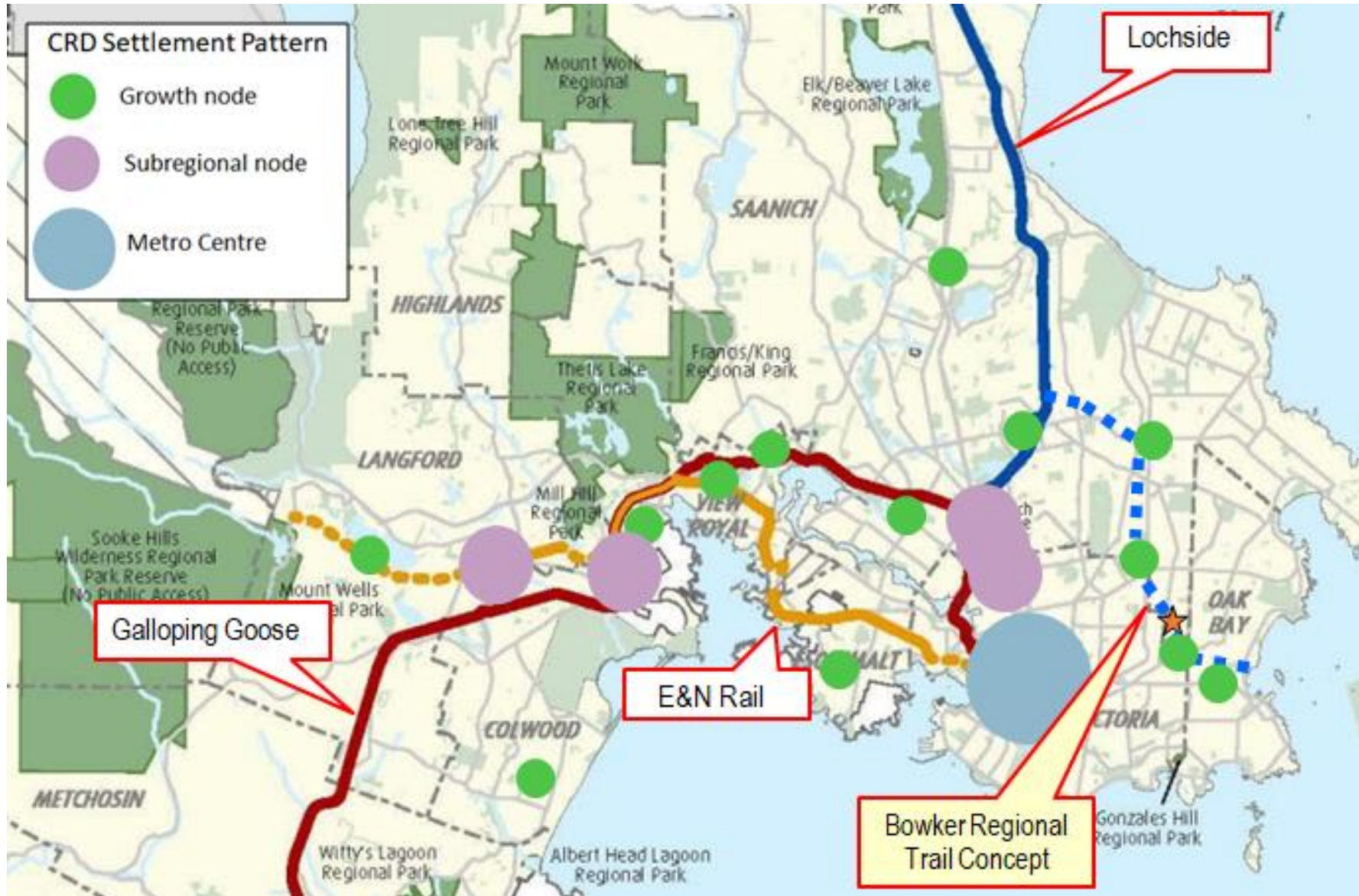
Yours truly,

Ian Graeme

CELL: [REDACTED]

CC: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Saanich Parks & Recreation  
Harley Machielse, Director of Engineering  
Sharon Hvozanski, Director of Planning

## Bowker Creek Regional Trail Concept



*“A greenway corridor that provides habitat for wildlife, recreational opportunities for residents, quiet spaces for nature appreciation, and the ability to travel safely across town by foot or bicycle instead of by car, would be an enormous community asset.”*

2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Management Plan.

# The Bowker Creek Regional Trail

## 1. CONCEPT

An Emerald Necklace of blue/green that generally follows Bowker Creek and connects existing parks, neighbourhoods and destinations in Saanich, Victoria and Oak Bay to the Regional Trails Network.

## 2. BENEFITS

- Improved biodiversity and ecological values
- Vibrant communities
- Public health and recreation
- Cultural and historic values
- Active transportation corridor
- Economic development opportunities
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation

## 3. CONNECTIONS

The greenway links many existing parks and facilities and aligns well with regional settlement plans:

### 3.1 Existing parks and greenspace

- Firefighters Park
- Bowker Creek Park
- Kings Road Nature Space
- Spirit Garden
- Clawthorpe Park
- Browning-Gyro Park
- Cedar Hill Park and Golf Course
- Rowan Park
- Gore Park
- Braefoot Park

### 3.2 Commercial centres and regional growth nodes

- University Heights
- Shelbourne Village
- Hillside Centre
- Jubilee Hospital Precinct
- Oak Bay Village

## 3. CONNECTIONS (continued)

### 3.3 Schools

- Glenlyon-Norfolk
- Oak Bay High School
- St Patrick's School
- Richmond School
- Lansdowne Middle School - North
- St Michael's University School (senior Campus)
- Doncaster Elementary
- Cedar Hill Middle School

### 3.4 Community Centres/public facilities

- Oak Bay Recreation Centre
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
- Oaklands Community Centre
- Nellie McClung Library
- Oak Bay Fire/Police Station

### 3.5 Health Care facilities

- Royal Jubilee Hospital
- BC Cancer Centre
- Victoria Arthritis Centre
- Shelbourne Medical Clinic
- Lansdowne Walk-in Clinic
- Gordon Head Treatment Centre



## 4. PLANNING ALIGNMENT

The *Bowker Creek Regional Trail* concept aligns well with existing regional and municipal plans including the following:

### 4.1 CRD

- 2011 Bowker Creek Blueprint
- 2011 Pedestrian & Cycling Masterplan
- 2003 Bowker Creek Watershed Mgt Plan
- 1997 Regional Green/Blue Spaces Strategy

### 4.2 Saanich

- 2018 Saanich Active Transportation Plan
- 2017 Shelbourne Valley Action Plan
- 2003 Centennial Trails 2006 and Beyond
- 1998 Shelbourne Local Area Plan

### 4.3 Victoria

- 2017 Parks & Open Spaces Master Plan
- 2016 AAA Cycling Network Plan
- 2012 Official Community Plan
- 2003 City of Victoria Greenways Plan

### 4.4 Oak Bay

- 2014 Official Community Plan policies
- 2011 Active Transportation Strategy
- 1978-81 Oak Bay/PCC investments



# Saanich News

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## Bowker Creek trail a long time coming

**The issue:**  
Should council consider a multi-use trail along Bowker Creek?

Saanich council took a step in the right direction last week when they decided to do something about the Bowker Creek area.

**Our view:** It makes sense for the community and the environment

Despite strong objection by some Shelbourne area residents, council has decided to go ahead and explore the possibility of developing a multi-use trail and park area along the creek.

The argument against this idea is based on the premise that the trail is in close proximity to local schools and opening it up for public use would generate more people and thus pose a security risk to children.

But on the other hand, it seems far more likely that the potential for problems are far greater if the area is left in seclusion and abandoned.

The opponents also argue that the area is already known for vandalism and rowdy young people and the construction of a multi-use path will lead to more problems in the area.

However, those activities also occur more often in areas secluded from the public as well.

If the plan goes ahead, the activity along the creek is apt to change – cyclists, hikers and people just out for a stroll in their community will begin to use the trail.

Certainly residents would prefer this type of activity near schools and their homes as opposed to a garbage disposal or so-called rowdy youth.

Unfortunately there is always an element of fear no matter where we go. But as one resident put it: "the landscape doesn't create dangerous people, dangerous people get created in other ways."

And safety, while imperative, isn't the only benefit to the proposed trail. Not only will each resident have the opportunity to enjoy such an amenity close to home, but environmentally, it is also a long time coming.