

**AGENDA**  
**Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**Via MS Teams**

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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In light of the Saanich Communicable Disease Plan related safety measures, this meeting will be held virtually via MS Teams. Details on how to join the meeting can be found on the committee webpage – [Parks, Trails and Recreation Schedule, Minutes & Agendas](#). Please note that individuals participating by phone are identified by their phone number, which can be viewed on screen by all attendees of the meeting.

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*The District of Saanich lies within the territories of the lək'wəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ peoples represented by the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and 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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**1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- June 22, 2022 (attachment)

**2. CHAIR'S REMARKS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**3. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF DIVERISTY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY**

- Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Parks, Recreation and Community Services

**4. PEOPLE, PETS AND PARKS STATUS UPDATE**

- Paul de Greeff, Manager of Parks, Planning & Development

**5. FOOD TRUCKS 2023 & BEYOND (materials to follow)**

- Paul de Greeff, Manager of Parks, Planning & Development

**6. PRCS DIRECTION & ACTIONS PLAN UPDATE**

- Paul de Greeff, Manager of Parks, Planning & Development

**7. 2023 CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIES**

- Paul de Greeff, Manager of Parks, Planning & Development

\* Adjournment \*

Next Meeting: February 22, 2023 at 4:00 pm

In order to ensure a quorum, please contact Kirsten Brazier at 250-475-5494 ext. 3508 or [kirsten.brazier@saanich.ca](mailto:kirsten.brazier@saanich.ca) if you are unable to attend.

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Via Microsoft Teams  
June 22, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

**Present:** Councillor Judy Brownoff (Chair); Pam Carroll; Rachel Corder; David Little; Amy-Jade Louie; Darrell Wick; Leigh Campbell

**Staff:** Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Tiana Solares, Senior Manager of Recreation; Paul de Greeff, Parks Manager of Planning & Development; Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner; Amber Walker, Community Planner; Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk

**Guests:** Megan Turnock, Lees & Associates

**Regrets:** Annie Djiotsa (resigned); Dex Owen; Ted Austin

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<b>ADOPTION OF MINUTES</b>
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<b>MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Little: "That the minutes of the April 27, 2022 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adopted."</b>
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<b>CARRIED</b>
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<b>RECEIPT OF CORRESPONDENCE</b>
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The correspondence was received for information.
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<b>CHAIR'S REMARKS</b>
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This is last meeting before the summer break; the September 28 <sup>th</sup> meeting is yet to be confirmed as it is close to the Election cycle.
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<b>PEOPLE, PETS, AND PARKS STRATEGY</b>
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M. Turnock, Lees & Associates, presented an update on the People, Pets, and Parks Strategy to the Committee and noted the following:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The purpose of the Strategy is to allow Saanich and its parks users to achieve positive desired relationships between all people, pets, and the environment.</li><li>• The project is currently in phase 3 (consultation and validation). The project will see three rounds of engagement including a public survey.</li><li>• Currently, dogs are permitted off-leash. The bylaw includes some trails and parks where dogs are not allowed or are allowed on-leash.</li><li>• Dog licenses increased dramatically since 2019.</li><li>• Feedback was collected from preliminary surveys at pop-up dog parks.</li><li>• Pop-up dog parks will return in Summer 2022.</li></ul> |
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The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There will be some recommendations around bylaw changes as part of the Strategy.</li><li>• It was observed that the presence of enforcement officers helps with compliance of leashed dogs.</li><li>• Saanich animal control is now managed by the Capital Regional District (CRD) effective</li></ul> |
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June 1, 2022.

- There has been outreach to specific groups and organizations to complete the survey.

### **BECKWITH DAM UPDATE**

The Park Planner presented on the dam decommissioning at Beckwith Park and noted the following:

- Beckwith Pond is a man-made feature from the 1970s that was formed to provide a source of irrigation water for a neighbouring farm.
- Despite the pond being located in the park, a third party currently owns the water license; the farm no longer requires irrigation so the dam must be decommissioned.
- Decommissioning the dam means there are no future requirements to inspect and maintain the dam to the required standards set by Provincial Dam Safety Branch.
- The decommissioning will also create a new stream channel and riparian habitat.
- A breach on the dam is required to ensure that it poses no safety risk to the public.

The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:

- The main pond's water level will decrease slightly as a result of the dam decommissioning.
- It is not believed that the change in water level will affect the surrounding natural environment.
- The change should not impact the flow into Beckwith Creek.
- The pond has an existing overflow through a pipe.

**MOVED by R. Corder and Seconded by P. Carroll: "That the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee support the discharge of the Water Licence and breaching of the main dam in Beckwith Park as outlined in the proposal by staff."**

- Park use is well established, and the pond is getting well-filtered water.
- The consultants have designed the decommissioning appropriately for park and natural area, and no trees will be impacted.

**CARRIED**

### **CECELIA CREEK**

The Parks Manager of Planning & Development, presented a revised concept for the Cecelia Creek Falls Park stormwater management and noted the following:

- An Engineering feasibility study was the foundation for a 2009 concept plan to daylight a small section of the creek.
- High costs, technical challenges, and lack of funding have prevented the plan from being realized.
- Staff are proposing a phased approach which will include park pathways, raingardens and a restored channel, pedestrian bridges, and riparian restoration plantings.
- The revised concept will see reduced excavation, reduced tree loss, accommodation of future greenway improvements and more useable park space.

The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:

- Daylighting is a strategy to pursue and celebrate habitat restoration, urban habitat, and human contact with green space.
- The challenge is that not every site is suitable for daylighting.
- Putting water in contact with plants is one of the best ways to clean water.
- This project was approved as a Centennial project for Saanich.

- Staff have determined that a one-time request of \$160,000 will be required to complete phase 1 of this project.

**MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by L. Campbell: “That the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee accepts this new concept and recommends that it goes to Council as part of the 2023 budget deliberations.”**

**CARRIED**

### **MISTING STATIONS**

The Parks Manager of Planning & Development, presented on Saanich public cooling stations and noted the following:

- The goal is to provide emergency cooling stations for public use throughout the District during extreme heat conditions.
- Saanich Neighbourhood Parks Program water supply have been installed and completed.
- Temporary misting stations (in 2022) will require staff set up and monitoring during heat waves. Selected sites will have an existing water supply and priority will be given to high use areas with limited tree cover.
- The strategy proposes that permanent park fixture installations occur in 2023 and beyond.

The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:

- Vancouver street-based misting stations have received positive reviews.
- It was suggested that users be provided an opportunity to provide feedback on the temporary misting stations.
- This initiative may be supported through the emergency preparedness update.

**MOVED by D. Little and Seconded by R. Corder: “That the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee supports the initiative of installing temporary misting stations, and requests that staff report back to the Committee in the fall.”**

**CARRIED**

### **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

The Senior Transportation Planner presented to the Committee on the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) Update and noted the following:

- The ATP is a guide for investment in active transportation improvements for the next 30 years. This update will focus on reviewing specific aspects of the plan, and incorporating new and emerging information to ensure that the plan continues to be relevant and actionable.
- The scope involves incorporating initiatives for road safety, electric bikes and micromobility devices, and traffic calming.
- Community engagement will be an important part of the planning process for the ATP update. Governments, stakeholders and the public will have opportunities to provide input through various channels.

The following discussions ensued in response to the presentation:

- The trail network is part of the ATP.
- Electric bikes on the trail network are of concern; many pedestrians are no longer using some trails because of speeding electric bikes.
- Consideration should be given to washroom options for users of water activities.
- Increased traffic and speed have an impact on active transportation in Saanich. Staff are

working on policy to address speed limits, and the road safety action plan looks at how to reduce and eliminate serious collisions and fatalities.

- There is a broad array of transportation methods on the trail network and routes throughout the day. Trail safety will be important to address in addition to road safety.
- It was noted that the addition of “poles” in rural Saanich have been successful in keeping drivers out of the cyclists’ path.
- Concerns were expressed around the issue of school drop offs and pick ups.

#### **STRATEGIC OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE**

The Community Planner provided an update on the Strategic Official Community Plan (OCP) and noted the following:

- The majority of the plan content is still relevant; staff will build on recent processes and adopted policy and Council direction in order to make priority updates in a short time frame.
- The current consultation focus is on new policy areas and land use framework.
- The timeline for the project is one year and phased into: analysis and policy development; validation and refinement; and plan adoption. Community engagement will occur at each of these phases.
- The District requires more policy on equitable access to parks in order to enable residents to walk to a park or open space.
- A survey as well as a link to sign up for updates will be shared with Committee members.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is yet to be determined.

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Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Secretary

## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

### Report

**To:** Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee;  
Healthy Saanich Advisory Committee;  
Parks, Trails & Recreation Advisory Committees

**From:** Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager- Community Services Division

**Date:** January 17, 2023

**Subject:** Community Services Division Update

The following update is provided to committees for information.

**Background:** The CS division of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services department, focuses on providing equitable and meaningful programs, events and opportunities for any Saanich resident who is experiencing a barrier to participation whether due to financial, social, cultural, age or ability-based factors. We are the smallest division in the department, but our staff are all specialists in providing these services to ensure that in Saanich, everyone belongs.

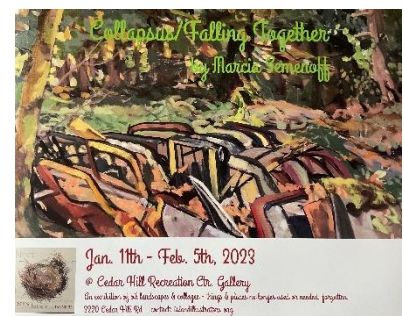
**Discussion:** From January through March, Community Services is partnering with art therapist Debbie Douez, the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and UVIC's Centre for Youth and Society to bring the **Art of Reconciliation (AoR)** program to Cedar Hill Arts Centre. Indigenous and non-Indigenous young adults aged 18-29 explore how they feel about reconciliation through art-making workshops, reflection, group discussion and deep learning with invited guest speakers. A culminating exhibition and a free community event on Friday evening, March 10 will take place at Cedar Hill.



**Family Arts Festival** is back in person! Join us at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre on Family Day, February 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for this popular free community event featuring a diverse array of performances by different cultural groups, children's performers and community groups. There will also be hands-on creative activities for all ages to enjoy. More info at [www.saanich.ca/eventscalendar](http://www.saanich.ca/eventscalendar)

**Exhibits:** *Saanich Municipal Hall Exhibits through February 17:* Janie Lucas, Monique Duguay, and the African Arts & Cultural Community Contributor Society's showcase for Black History Month.

*Cedar Hill Exhibits:* Marcia Semenoff's oil landscape and collages in "Collapsus - Falling Together" through Feb. 5; Florence Roberge's "Flowering" runs through March 5.



Starting in 2023, oversight of the **Saanich Public Art Program** has been transferred to the Community Services. Current activities include:

- Proposed Phase 2 of a **Community Mural Program**, recently approved by Council to be considered for funding in the 2023 budget year. Phase 1, the Community Canvas Mural Project, realized the installation

of 3 murals in Saanich Parks. More information on the mural program can be found at [www.saanich.ca/murals](http://www.saanich.ca/murals)

- The initiation of the public art process for the approved [Fire Station #2 Redevelopment](#).

The **2022 LIFE program registration and renewal process** began on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. As of January 15<sup>th</sup>, 849 people have already registered to receive their 2023 LIFE pass. This is an 111% increase from the same period for the 2022 LIFE Pass. We are excited to see this program grow in 2023 as opportunities and ease of use increase due to reduced pandemic impacts.

The 9<sup>th</sup> year of **after-school programming at Tillicum School**, supported by the Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charity and the District of Saanich, started on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This program has expanded to four days a week from the previous three days a week. PISE, Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence, provides direct leadership to 96 students in Grades 1-5 onsite at Tillicum Elementary. PISE focuses on the fundamental movements of run, jump and throw. While 96 students can participate, there are still many students on the waitlist for this program. This program makes a positive impact on the lives of the participants by providing the opportunity to be active to children who otherwise may not have accessibility to extracurricular activities after school due to limited finances and resources.

**Lunar New Year** is early this year and begins on January 22nd. After canceling last year, this year's event will be co-hosted with Oak Bay and held on February 11th at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

**February is Black History Month.** The African Arts & Cultural Society has a variety of events planned around the theme of "Building Bridges". They are curating a series of events that honour the legacies of black Canadians, and will also be producing the ISSAMBA Showcase. For more information, please visit: [vaccsociety.blogspot.com](http://vaccsociety.blogspot.com).

Special Swims at Gordon Head have restarted. **Muslim Women Swim** had 48 attendees on January 14<sup>th</sup>. There was another Special Swim session scheduled on January 21<sup>st</sup> for the 2SLGBTQI+ community, and a **Muslim Men Swim** January 28th. Special Swims are planned to continue monthly.

**Volunteer Info sessions** will be offered in the coming months. Community members are invited to learn more about planned events and activities, as well as ways to get involved within Parks, Recreation & Community Services.

**Child & Youth Services** have kicked off the New Year with outstanding participation in evening youth programs with up to 21 youth registering to play Dungeons & Dragons! Additionally, youth centres have returned to offering both registered and **drop-in afterschool programming for youth** ages 11 to 16 years. Youth have been excited to return, especially to the Pearkes Teen Centre (the Flipside) where they can have a snack, hang out with friends, get homework help, play games, and feel connected. Looking forward, we have begun to plan for the expansion of summer youth opportunities within our **WYLD (Willing Youth Leading Diverse Communities)** program. With the goal to connect more youth with internal partners to build succession for our future staffing needs.



## The Corporation of the District of Saanich

# REPORT

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

**From:** Tiana Solares, Senior Manager - Recreation

**Date:** 1/20/2023

**Subject:** 2023 Q1 Report

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks, Trails and Recreation and Healthy Saanich Advisory Committees receive this report as information.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committees with an overview of recent Recreation Division activities.

### DISCUSSION

#### Changes to Registration

In response to comments and input from the community, Recreation made changes to the current Winter/Spring registration process this year. For the first time, dryland registrations, including spring break camps, art and fitness programs, were held one week in advance of all aquatic registrations. This change allowed parents in particular to register for high-demand programs like camps without the added stress of trying to register for very high demand swim lessons at the same time.

The registration update was promoted extensively through Recreation's E-Newletter, social media and regular media channels with a message of 'You Spoke, We Listened' and elicited a number of positive comments and feedback from registrants.

#### Swim Lesson Demand

Demand for youth swimming lessons continues to be high across the region. For the Winter/Spring Session, Saanich Recreation has divided the swim lesson terms into two sets. This provides a number of benefits to parents and learners, including being able to know which level to register for in the second session, and allowing for an additional access opportunity for participants who were unable to register during the first session.

The District has been running a number of high level swim courses over the course of the last year, including a Waterpark Certification course in December, which is required for lifeguards and instructors



at Saanich Commonwealth Place. From that class alone, Recreation has hired ten new lifeguards, as capacity continues to climb post-pandemic. For this winter session, 247 swim classes are on offer, with 1274 individual spots. The division anticipates increasing those numbers moving forward into Q2.

### **Cedar Hill Golf Course Audobon Certification**

In January, Cedar Hill Golf Course received notification that the course will receive official designation as part of the Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary program. The Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf is an environmental education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment, preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf, promote environment sustainability and gain recognition for their efforts.

Golf Course Superintendent Ian Smith and Assistant Superintendent Mark Bate work with their teams to achieve recognition for six different components of the certification, including environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and Safety, water conservation, water quality management and outreach and education.

The certification for Water Conservation will arrive this quarter to complement the Environmental Planning certification already achieved, and a media release and promotion of this significant achievement is planned.

### **Winter Senior National Dive Championships**

Saanich Commonwealth Place will hold the 2023 Winter Senior National Dive Championships January 27 – 29. Beginning the week of January 23, over 90 elite athletes and their families will start to arrive in Saanich to compete for Canadian National titles. The competition events begin at 10:00am on January 27 with finals being held after 10:00am on January 29.

### **Safe Spaces Swim Times**

In order to support the community need for safe spaces, Gordon Head Recreation Centre is now offering special swim times for specific groups. These include Muslim Women's swims, LGBTQ2S+ swims and Muslim Men's swims. These swim times are offered to provide a safe time and place for individuals to access the pool when they will be comfortable, and able to access recreation opportunities in a way that makes them feel secure and included.

### **Looking Ahead**

Recreation is continuing to evaluate and modify our registration procedures in response to community input, program demand and staffing levels. Additional changes to the registration process are being contemplated for the summer session to improve customer experience in the interest of Saanich Recreation remaining a service provider of choice for the community.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Tiana Solares Senior Manager, Recreation

Suzanne Samborski, Director, Parks & Recreation

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

**DATE:** January 18, 2023

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

**SUBJECT: Parks Division Update – January 2023**

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

## **Community Development and Business Systems**

### **Park user groups:**

- Soccer season is in full swing. Parks is preparing to support other user groups in the spring. We are planning annual meetings with football, lawnbowling, horseshoe and all the ball (softball and baseball) clubs. In terms of Park Partner projects, we are in the process of completing a few club-initiated projects (converting overhead soccer lights to LEDs at Hampton Park and finishing a bullpen project by Hampton Little League).

### **Tree Bylaw and Development Referrals:**

- Mapping and Tracking trees in Saanich: Staff and technology are in place to begin testing. The first step is to start mapping individual trees within groups of significant trees that are currently represented by a single point on the GIS system. Once we have a chance to hone our technology and a working system is in place, mapping replacement trees is the priority.
- Tree Protection Bylaw applications: Development-related applications review (building permits, subdivisions, development permits, servicing plan approvals, etc), as they relate to the Tree Protection Bylaw, is a large ongoing volume of work for our section. In 2022 we processed over one thousand (1000) development related files. In addition, we processed just under one thousand (1000) residential tree permit requests.

## **Park Planning and Development**

### **Planning and Design:**

#### ***Kings Community Nature Space***

Parks has held 2 public events regarding the new park's overriding vision, supporting goals, and management model. The second and last survey ended on January 15th. Parks will bring a report to PTR and Council in the coming months with final outcomes and next steps.

#### ***Beckwith Park Dam Decommissioning***

Don Mann Excavating Ltd., the water license holder, will be hosting a public open house on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the Victoria Church of the Nazarene at 4277 Quadra Street, doors open at 7:00pm with the presentation starting at 7:30pm. Consultants for the license holder and Parks staff will be attending to answer questions about the dam decommissioning project and a feedback survey will be available online.

## People Pets and Parks Strategy

We're pleased to announce that Round Two of public engagement for the [People Pets and Parks Strategy](#) has begun. An Update Report and supporting appendices is available for viewing on the webpage.



**People, Pets and Parks Strategy**

We need your input!

**Open House:**  
Wednesday, February 1, Drop-in from 3–7 p.m.  
Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse, 1400 Derby Road  
*no pets or dogs allowed in the facility*

**Survey** open February 1 to 22 at [Saanich.ca/peoplepetsparks](https://saanich.ca/peoplepetsparks)

Door prize draw at the Open House!

Contact us at [parks@saanich.ca](mailto:parks@saanich.ca) or call 250-475-5522

Saanich

To start off this round off, three separate Stakeholder Workshops were held in late November and early December with representatives from:

- *Dog Owner Interest/Advocacy Groups, Trainers, and Professional Dog Walkers; and*
- *Governmental Agencies*
- *Environmental & Stewardship Groups;*

A public Open House and second online survey is scheduled for Feb 1. Included is the Saanich News advertisement for that event.

## Construction:

- Allenby Park: Construction has been ongoing and is 85% complete. Landscaping and trail construction is in the process of being completed.
- PKOLS (Mount Douglas Park): Construction of the lower staircase to the beach has been completed.
- Quick's Bottom Park: Gates were installed at the vehicle entrance.
- Park Furniture: Six donated benches and two donated picnic tables were recently installed.
- Graffiti Removal: Work is constant and ongoing.
- Playground inspections & maintenance: Nine playgrounds were topped up with Engineered wood chips providing a safer playing surface that improves accessibility.
- Trail maintenance and repair: the Quadrant trail maintenance program is underway, with some additional improvements and repairs undertaken between the lower beach parking lot at Mt. Douglas and the new Mt. Douglas beach stairs.

## Park Operations

### Maintenance Section:

- Refuse: This continues to be an ongoing service that no longer slows down in the winter as many refuse locations are in parking lots.
- Washrooms: There are a reduced number of washrooms open in the winter, however, the time required to service goes up due to the inclement weather.
- Soccer: Players are returning from their winter break, so servicing of fields and safety checks are ongoing.
- Calls for Service: Homeless camp clean-up, dumping in Parks, general requests for service, and weekly run-throughs of Cuthbert Holmes, Gorge Park, and Regina Park are keeping the team busy.
- Snow and Ice Removal: We have only had one main snow and ice event so far but due to freezing conditions the team were also busy in the early winter applying brine and salt on public parking lots (Fire, Police, recreation centres, municipal staff and Parks parking lots) as needed.
- Leaf Collection: Collecting leaves is ongoing into 2023 as the late fall did not allow for an early pickup.

- Irrigation: Irrigation technicians are working as the weather permits to complete projects at Allenby Park and Quick's Bottom Arboretum. There are five tree drip systems to be installed over the next few months.

### Horticulture Section:

- Snow Removal: With the most recent winter snow event, Horticulture crews aided in salting and shovelling Recreation Centre's sidewalks and Park frontages.
- Cul-de-sac Program: Winter cul-de-sac maintenance is underway. January & February are when the bulk of our 470+ cul-de-sacs are tended to.
- Plant Propagation: Staff are starting to propagate spring seedlings at our Markham greenhouse for this summer's annual display beds.
- Calls for Service: Items continue to be addressed as they occur. Most recently these include sidewalk clearing of blackberries from Park and Fire Station frontages.
- Horticulture Program: Crews continue to weed, mulch, prune, and divide garden beds in our feature Parks.

## Urban Forestry, Natural Areas, and Community Stewardship

### Urban Forestry Section:

- Pruning Program: The team has started 2023 off with proactive pruning in the Cordova Bay area. This program focuses on pruning trees along roadways to remove hazardous limbs, and to provide clearance for vehicles, and sidewalk users.
- Boulevard Tree Planting Program: This program began at the beginning of January. This consists of the planting of replacement and Partnership trees along Saanich boulevards. Planting is currently underway in Royal Oak, Cordova Bay, and Carey neighbourhoods.
- Small Tree Maintenance Program (STM): This year the program has commenced on trees planted in 2018. This will include the mulching, fertilizing, and structural pruning of 430 trees in both parks and boulevards.
- Project Review: Supervisory staff continue to review Engineering drawings and permits for tree impacts and provide onsite arborist supervision for Public Works projects. Planning is under way for all the Park planting projects which will happen at the end of 2023.



### Natural Areas Section:

#### ***Final Tree Planting Numbers in Natural Areas for 2022:***

The Natural Areas section will be starting the 2023 tree planting season with approximately 800-1000 trees planned for the rest of the winter including 400, one-gallon Western red Cedars and Grand fir trees being delivered on January 18<sup>th</sup> from the *Fanny Bay Salmonoid Conservation Society (FBSCS)*. Most of these will be planted in areas of PKOLS Park that have seen conifer die-off and wind-storm damage. FBSCS donates ~600 trees each year to Saanich Parks and in return for a small donation of \$1 per tree plus a one-gallon pot return.

<b>Seedlings</b>	<b>795</b>
<b>1-3 gallon</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>Caliper</b>	<b>535</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1904</b>

### ***Invasive Species Management:***

Crews are off to an early start with surveys being done on Lesser Celandine and Shiny Geranium. The Environmental Technician is dedicated to implementing the invasive species program on private property which includes the above two species and Knotweed later in the spring/summer. The Lesser Celandine, on private property has not been worked on since 2015 so the extent of the program is unknown on the over 100 known sites. Public Lesser Celandine has seen a significant drop in area with the program running for over a decade now.

### ***Cuthbert Holmes Habitat Alcoves and Pathway Restoration***

Thousands of native herbaceous plants and hundreds of native trees and shrubs have been planted in phase two along the west side of Colquitz Creek. The 30m buffer/riparian zone between the new pathway and the creek is part of a ten-year Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MoTI) funded project and the Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan. The new viewing platform gives an incredible view into the creek with two alcoves combining for a large tidal flood zone that offers protection from predators and feeding opportunities to Salmon and Cut-throat Trout.



### ***Restoration Projects with Pulling Together Volunteer Groups***

Another sizable planting season is wrapping up with over 30 planting sites, many of which supported the wonderful restoration work being done by the ~46 Pulling Together Volunteer groups. Our goal with every restoration site is to enhance wildlife habitat and native biodiversity; we order 30-40 different species of herbaceous, shrubs and trees each year to help restore diverse layers. These PT plant orders are a great way for staff to engage with PT volunteers and many youth groups from various schools.

### ***UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Garry Oak Projects***

2022 was a great year to continue Saanich's commitment to the UN decade on Ecosystem Restoration with the following parks being part of the initiative: Hyacinth Park, Knockan Hill Park, Fairburn Park, Little Mount Doug, and Braefoot Park. Braefoot Park is becoming a showpiece for the program through partnerships with Pulling Together volunteers, Braefoot Elementary and Reynolds Highschool. A large area of turf grass, under the dripline of a beautiful Garry Oak tree, was removed using a de-sod machine, mixed mulch was added, Cedar split-rail fencing installed, a bat box raised, and a planting event was organized with both schools attending plus staff and PT volunteers.





## Community Stewardship Update:

### ***Volunteer Stewardship Summery 2022***

Volunteers are incredibly committed to Saanich Parks. Pulling Together (PT), Park Ambassador (PA) and hundreds of other community drop-in volunteers contributed a total of 16, 313 hours in 2022. There are 200+ registered PT volunteers, 13 PA volunteers and we supported 12+ schools and community groups last year. There are 46 Pulling Together projects with 63 lead steward volunteers who support these.

### ***Pulling Together Work Parties***

Pulling Together volunteers continue to gather every day of the week in different parks. Work party dates/ times will be posted soon on the [Saanich Events Calendar](#). Until then, if there are community members interested in volunteering, they can reach out to [Parks@saanich.ca](mailto:Parks@saanich.ca). The

weeds do not stop, so new volunteers are always welcome to join.



### ***Pulling Together Restoration Planning***

Winter is the season for restoration planning for the year ahead. Staff will meet with most of our groups (currently 46 Pulling Together projects). These meetings allow us to track important stewardship work being done by volunteers, determine supports required, and find opportunities for the greater community to participate in these projects.



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

To support our commitment to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, staff have initiated habitat restoration projects. We find appropriate opportunities for community groups and schools to be involved in meaningful stewardship experiences. Pulling Together volunteer projects are also an excellent opportunity for youth to engage with the land that supports us. Volunteer groups support classes from Lambrick Park School, Arbutus Middle School, Mount Douglas Secondary, and Spectrum Secondary and others.