

AGENDA
Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee
Via MS Teams

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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.

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 | (5 mins) |
| ▪ January 25, 2023 | |
| 2. CHAIR'S REMARKS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS | (5 mins) |
| 3. VICTORIA REGIONAL PICKLEBALL PRESENTATION | (20 mins) |
| • Connie McCann, President, Victoria Regional Pickleball Association | |
| 4. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE | (15 mins) |
| • Megan Squires, Senior Transportation Planner | |
| 5. POP-UP DOG PARK PILOT PROGRAM SUMMARY & 2023 PROPOSAL | |
| • Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer, Parks | (20mins) |
| 6. URBAN FOREST STRATEGY UPDATE | (10 mins) |
| • Eva Riccius, Senior Manager, Parks | |
| 7. BIRD CITY UPDATE | (5 mins) |
| • Alix Link, Manager of Urban Forestry and Nature Area, Parks | |
| 8. PICKLEBALL (SAANICH INITIATIVES) | (5 - 7 mins) |
| • Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer, Parks | |

* Adjournment *

Next Meeting: March 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 if you are unable to attend.

MINUTES
PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Via Microsoft Teams
January 25, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Staff: Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer; Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer; Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services; Eva Riccius, Senior Manager of Parks; Troy McKay, Senior Manager of Transportation & Development Services; Paul de Greeff, Parks Manager of Planning & Development; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services Kirsten Brazier, Committee Clerk; Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Dex Owen

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by P. Carroll and Seconded by D. Little: "That the minutes of the June 22, 2022 Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS / WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- New committees and TOR have been approved. The committee will align with the new Strategic Plan. Staff have been asked to standardize membership descriptions.
- This committee will change to Natural Areas, Parks and Trails Advisory Committee.
- Council has had one strategic planning session with another to follow this Saturday.
- A member brought forward the topic of Bird City. This will be brought forward to the February agenda.

UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGY

An update on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy was shared by Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager, Community Services.

- This is a district wide strategy that is being developed by Community Services Division.
- Market analysis was completed in 2019. The findings showed that the demographics of Saanich are changing and the population is growing.
- Staff provided a historical overview of the creation of a District wide plan to date.
- The scope of work of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategy cast a wide net of research. The focus was centralized on BIPOC and 2SLGBTQI+ communities.
- Demographics and trends that impact our community were scrutinized.
- Researchers were asked to identify the gaps in District recruitment and retention services.
- Best practises from other communities and agencies similar to Saanich were considered and put into a strategic plan.
- Spring 2022, the contractors created surveys to poll staff and community members.

Focus groups with community organizations took place. Interviews with First Nation and Urban Indigenous Residents were integral to this re

- While Saanich's program is welcoming, there are some gaps to fill in.
- 90% of those polled noted that culturally diverse programming and events are important.
- The employee survey has highlighted that we need to hire from diverse groups.
- Saanich needs to ensure that adaptive and accessible facilities available for all residents.
- Saanich will continue to work to develop strong partnerships with local groups to support this strategy.

PEOPLE, PETS AND PARKS STATUS UPDATE

Julie Lommerse, Park Planner Designer, provided an update on the People, Pets and Parks strategy.

- Developing a shared use framework between pet owners and non-pet owners and pets and the environment.
- This project focuses on animal policies relating to animals and properties.
- The project began in January 2022. Consultants organized the first round of engagement in the spring and summer.
- The data collected to date is available on the website in a summary report.
- Now on round 2 of public engagement. There is an open house scheduled for February 1st from 3 to 7 pm at the Cedar Hill Golf Course. The materials will also be posted online.
- After this round of engagement, staff will present to council and this committee with options and refine the strategy.
- A report will be delivered to the public in the 3rd round of engagement.
- Information is available on the Saanich website and well as Saanich newsletters.
- The public can sign up for email updates through the website.

Committee Discussion

- Some residents have raised concerned about privacy when participating at an open house. The consultants will be handing out workbooks to residents for them to submit comments confidentially.
- Residents who were avoiding parks have not been heard through the previous zoom meetings. Feedback from has also been received via email and phone.
- We have been in contact with residents regarding concerns over safety, waste management, sports fields, and beaches with pet access.
- The concerns over roaming cats are a broader bylaw issue. There are a few areas in parks that have been identified as having a large feral cat population.
- This would be addressed by the bylaw department if council provided direction to do so.
- Staff expect this to come to Council in the spring, with the timing being solidified by the consultant team in the near future. The final report is expected in May or June.

FOOD TRUCKS 2023 & BEYOND

Becky Goodall, Park Planner Designer, provided an overview of last year's Food Trucks in Parks pilot program and next steps.

- Endorsed by Council in 2020, implementation delayed until 2021 due to COVID.
- The program ran in the summer months and participating vendors needed to have the required licensing, permits, inspections and insurance. Vendors were required to be self-sufficient with their own power and water, and to operate within noise

restriction bylaws.

- The program began with vendors at Beckwith Park, Gyro Park and the Gorge Waterway.
- The Gorge Waterway space was too small for most vendors. Foot customer traffic was not heavy enough to support business.
- In 2021 there were few competing opportunities for vendors to go to. In 2022 many other opportunities re-opened.
- Initially, vendor schedules were posted on the Saanich website. They were often not up to date due to short notice schedule changes.
- In 2022 vendors posted their schedules on the Food Trucks Victoria app.
- Vendors agreed that Gyro Park was the only park that was consistently busy enough for them to go to. The most successful vendors were selling sweets or snacks.
- Staff recommends that the 2023 program proceed only at Gyro Park under the same general terms and conditions as the past two years.
- Staff would like for the program to move forward as a regular program and to no longer be considered a pilot project.
- Food trucks at other Saanich sponsored events faced challenges with licensing and bylaw issues. The solution was to register Temporary Use Permits (TUP) at identified locations. They are valid for 3 years (first registered in 2020). In order to continue the permits need to be renewed for an additional term (to the end of 2025). Following the additional renewal, a long term, permanent solution will be needed.
- Staff would like for PTR to endorse the recommendation to operate the Food Truck in Parks Program at Gyro Park, support the TUP for another 3-year term, and endorse staff working on flexible permitting for food trucks in the future.

Committee Discussion

- For the TUPs, will there be an opportunity for vendors to obtain a permit quickly to attend an event. Currently these are not a quick turnaround. They are registered on the property title. Staff are hopeful that before the end of 2025 there will be a program in place to be more agile to support businesses.
- Vendors at Saanich sponsored events are directly invited.
- Members voiced support for vendors by making TUPs more accessible and flexible.

Moved by P. Carroll, Seconded by T. Austin: “The Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee, recommends that the food truck program continue in Gyro Park in 2023; supports the renewal of Temporary Use Permits for an additional 3-year term; and requests Council to direct staff to find more flexible ways of permitting food truck use in Saanich.”

CARRIED

PRCS DIRECTION & ACTIONS PLAN UPDATE

Paul De Greef, Parks Manager of Planning and Development provided an update on the Directions and Actions plan.

- This work continues to build on existing vision and strategies already in place. Consultant will be working with content already developed following many hours of community consultation.
- Request for Proposals opened on January 4th and closed on January 31st.
- Looking to completion in spring 2024. This timeline is achievable as it builds on the work that has already been completed.

Committee Discussion

The Biodiversity Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy will provide staff with direction and guidance on how to move forward.

Staff will keep the committees updated as work progresses.

2023 CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIES

Paul De Greef, Parks Manager of Planning and Development presented an overview of 2023 construction projects.

- The Rutledge Park Project has received a significant grant to install a spray park. Negotiations are underway with the chosen design build team.
- This park will be accessible and the design team is building on integration of play equipment with fully accessible pieces (e.g. swings).
- Two washrooms will be in place soon at Playfair Park and McMinn Park. These are prefabricated units. The two washrooms are fully serviced with electrical and sewer connections. This will be the new standard for washrooms moving forward.
- At Allenby Park staff are nearing the completion of the playground and sport court upgrades.
- Wayfinding signs are being installed at the Bowker Creek Greenway.
- Lochside/Fowler Park upgrades are taking place. Fowler Park is a potential site for Pickleball. Staff hope to bring this to council in the spring.
- In POLKS (Mt. Douglas Park), staff would like to move forward with installing boardwalks in wet areas, building on the success of the boardwalk installed in the lower Churchill Road parking lot.
- Stairs have been replaced at PKOLS beach.
- Wedgewood Park has aged tennis courts will need reconstruction. This was budgeted in 2021.
- Summit parking at PKOLS Park will see parking area improvements, a kiosk, and improvements to the pathway leading to the top.
- Fowler Park in addition to the tennis and pickleball courts, there plans for a pit washroom to be installed.
- McMinn Park requires work on the bike park. It is currently not meeting the communities needs. Working with the South Island Mountain Bike Society on what staff hope to be a community partnership project.

Committee Discussion

- Members enquired as to what kind of roof would be used on the pit toilets. These could also be prefabricated units. Staff will look at the design and will report back to the committee.

REVIEW OF PTR PURPOSE, COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

The Chair lead a discussion on the scheduling of committee meeting and the new committee configurations.

- The hope is to meet in person starting in February. Recognizing that members have different preference as to how they attend, the Chair will continue to speak with staff about options for virtual attendance.
- New committees are on the horizon. Legislative Services will be asking members if they wish to sign on to a new committee. Interested members will need to reapply as the Terms of Reference for committees are changing as of April. The Chair clarified that members will need to reapply. The new configuration of this committee will be called the “Natural Areas, Park and Trails Advisory Committee. The recreation piece will become part of the “Arts, Culture and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee.”

- The Chair encouraged members to participate in the People, Pets and Parks Open House on February 1st.
- The Chair clarified that members will need to reapply. The new configuration of this committee will be called the “Natural Areas, Park and Trails Advisory Committee. The recreation piece will become part of the “Arts, Culture and Community Well-Being Advisory Committee.”
- Staff requested that for any topics that members would like to bring forward to the committee, staff would appreciate advance notice so that they prepare.
- Staff hope to bring a Third Arena Demand Analysis feasibility study update to the committee before the end of March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is February 22, 2023 at 4 pm.

Councillor Brownoff, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

Briefing Paper

What is pickleball?

- Created on Bainbridge Island, Washington state in mid 1960's. Pickleball became the Official Washington State Sport on March 28, 2022.
- Looks like a blend of ping pong and tennis, shares the dimensions with a badminton court with some differences
- Now boasts the support of LeBron James, Tom Brady and more than 36 million other Americans. "The sport is on fire with the older population, it seems like younger Americans are fueling its growth". Source-boardroom.tv. The Board Room Jan 16/22
- The top ranked woman pickleball player is a 27 year Canadian, Catherine Parenteau. 5 years ago, she did not know what pickleball was. Today she earns a 'nice' living from pickleball. Source- The Desert Sun newspaper Dec 5/21
- *Accessible*. It would take you 30-40 tennis lessons before you can hit a baseline forehand. In pickleball, you can get the baseline forehand in no time at all, and you can have a rally at the baseline after playing the game two times after picking up a paddle.
- *Affordable*. For \$50.00 you can buy 2 paddles and 4 balls.

Statistics

- Pickleball Canada has 44,000 members, wheelchair pickleball. Pickleball for deaf players. Youth Programs
- Pickleball BC has 11,500 members and 76 active clubs
- BC contributes 30% of the National Membership
- **Victoria Regional Pickleball Association** has 570 members. 30%+ are Saanich residents. Average age of men is 65.53 years of age and make up 39% of the membership. Average age of women is 64.1 years of age and make up 61% of the membership. VRPA has seen a 100% growth in membership in 14 months
- Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) track American statistics taken from the 2020 SFIA report: pickleball grew 39.3% since 2019. Core players (those who play more than 8x's per year in age 54 & younger grew from 40% to 46%. Bottom line – in the USA which is a few years ahead of Canada sees that the growth is in the under 40 age group.
- *From PCO March 2022:* We have the statistics to support the need for more pickleball facilities. Hot off the press - the results of a survey completed in January 2020 shows there is a near tripling of the number of pickleball players in Canada in the two years since the previous survey was completed. The survey indicates there are likely 850,000 to 900,000 households with at least one pickleball player and 45% of those households play at least 4 times/week. This translates to more than 1 million individuals playing pickleball in Canada. Another trend indicated by the data, shows the largest growth by age is in the 18 – 34-year-olds. This is consistent with what we are seeing across the country as more young adults and youth are taking up the sport of pickleball.

Inventory, OUTDOOR COURTS. Population: 425,503

City of Victoria	6 pickleball+tennis	3 dedicated courts
Esquimalt	2 pickleball + tennis	
Oak Bay		5 dedicated courts
District of Saanich	8 pickleball + tennis	4 dedicated courts
North Saanich		4 dedicated courts
Sidney	2 pickleball + tennis	
Central Saanich	1 pickleball + tennis	
View Royal	• 2 at Juan de Fuca	
Colwood	Same as above	
Metchosin	Same as above	
Highlands	Same as above	
Langford	Same as above plus	1 dedicated court
Sooke	2 pickleball + tennis	2 dedicated courts

TOTAL 35 20

District of Saanich, population 117,735

Population sector – 55-74 years of age, 26.4%

Number of dedicated pickleball courts – 8

Number of shared pickleball courts - 8

City of Victoria, population 91,867

Courts 6 + 3 dedicated

North Vancouver, pop. 85,395.

Courts 18.

Delta Municipality, pop. 110,848.

Courts 35

City of Vernon, pop. 40,116.

Courts 12 dedicated, covered, heated & more

City of Kamloops, pop. 90,280.

Courts 14, majority are dedicated.

Partnership: September 2022, VRPA provided \$4000.00 to the District of Oak Bay for sound panels. Oak Bay staff reported that the neighbours state that pickleball now sounds like tennis.

Youth Program: VRPA has done one in house teacher training at a SD 61 Middle school. VRPA provided all the equipment and the instructor for 2 hours, free of charge. In Spring 2023, we will be providing SD 62 Middle School lesson plans, teacher instruction and some student instruction. We received a \$500.00 matching grant for this program.

Instruction program: VRPA has the most qualified and greatest number of coaches in the Region. All of our coaches are certified under the new National Coach Certification program.

For your files: Cost of building 6 dedicated pickleball courts in South Cowichan, total budget: **\$744,500**. Includes washrooms, change rooms, picnic area. Source: Cowichan Valley Citizen newspaper. Jan 13/22

The Corporation of the District of Saanich

Report

To: Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee
From: Paul de Greeff; Manager of Park Planning and Development
Date: 2/15/2023
Subject: 2022 Pop-up Dog Park Pilot Program Summary and 2023 Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

That PTR receive the 2022 Pop-up Dog Park summary as information and endorse the proposed 2023 Summer Pop-up Dog Park pilot program as outlined.

PURPOSE

This report summarizes the 2021-2022 pilot program and presents the proposed 2023 program.

DISCUSSION

Background

Dog-owners are among the most frequent users of Saanich's parks, and have been advocating for more space and amenities to exercise, entertain, train and socialize their pets.

Accommodating dog-owners within a parks system that strives to accommodate people of all interests and abilities, while protecting wildlife and its habitat, is challenging.

In order to respond to dog owners' needs in the short term, and help learn how to respond to them in the long term, the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee (PTR) proposed running an off-leash dog park pilot program in 2021. The Summer Pop-Up Dog Park Pilot Program was subsequently approved by Council in 2021 and 2022.

Work to identify a long-term comprehensive approach to dogs in parks is underway. A multidisciplinary team of consultants has been working with Parks staff on the *People, Pets and Parks: A District Wide Strategy for Sharing Saanich's Parks* throughout 2022. A first draft of the Strategy is anticipated to be presented to committees and Council before the end of the year. Insights and public input from the Summer Pop-Up Dog Park pilot program are being used to help develop the strategy.

Summer Pop-Up Dog Park Pilot Program

The pilot program helps to relieve pressure on the parks system in the short term, tests the public's reaction to enclosed off-leash dog areas, and teaches where and how to build and operate them. The enclosed dog parks are a minimum of .14 ha (.35 acre), and are open seven

(7) days a week from 7 am to 10 pm. Rules and etiquette signs are posted in prominent locations.

2021 Pilot Program (June 29 – September 7)

Five (5) parks each hosted a pop-up dog park for 2 weeks in the 2021 program:

1. Fowler,
2. Hyacinth,
3. Gorge,
4. Rudd, and
5. Cadboro-Gyro Parks

Participating parks were identified by applying criteria:

- Zoning – parks zoned P-4N (Natural Park Zone) or P-5 (Conservation Zone) were excluded.
- Minimum open space:
 - Well established grass fields without excessively steep or wet areas, that are free of native vegetation and horticultural beds are required.
 - Environmental and wildlife impact – must not negatively impact wildlife or its habitat.
 - Size – a minimum area of .35 acre able to be enclosed without impeding access or use of the balance of the park.
- Parking – vehicles must be accommodated within the park and/or on-street (excluding residential-only parking areas) without unduly impacting residential streets.
- Conflicting uses – proposed areas must not be required for sports, community or municipal activities (Neighbourhood Playground Program, Music in the Park, exercise classes, etc.).
- Geographic distribution – distribute evenly throughout Saanich.

Public Feedback

An on-line survey and social media platforms were used to collect public input throughout the program, and Parks staff spoke to people using the areas as well as other park visitors.

All locations proved to be very well received and well used, with the exception of Cadboro-Gyro Park which was largely opposed by the community. Detailed findings including numbers of people using the parks, their reasons for using (or not using) them, mode of transportation, age, housing situations, concerns etc. have been added to the body of information used to develop the district's long term plan *People, Pets and Parks: A District Wide Strategy for Sharing Saanich's Parks*.

2022 Pilot Program (June through August)

Nine (9) parks each hosted a pop-up dog park for one (1) month in the expanded 3-month program:

1. Beckwith Park
2. Blair Park
3. Copley East Park
4. Fowler Park
5. Gorge Park
6. Horner Park
7. Hyacinth Park
8. Rudd Park
9. Vantreight Park

Criteria used to identify locations was the same as that used in 2021, with the addition of:

- Minimum 10 m to adjacent property lines.

Where more than one option existed in the same area, decisions were based on the park's overall size and capacity to accommodate the program, the amount of available parking, and probable impact to neighbours. Note that Cadboro-Gyro Park was not considered because of a lack of community support.

Several improvements to the enclosures themselves were made based on feedback from the 2021 program:

- Sturdier, double-gated enclosures.
- Water bowls and benches provided.
- Trees were used to provide shade wherever possible.

Public Feedback

The dog parks were generally very popular with users, though some found smaller locations too limiting. Numerous people asked that the enclosures be available for longer periods of time and/or be made permanent. In general, large enclosures available for longer periods of time were desired.

A few complaints were received from residents about enclosures being unsightly, too close to homes, and/or noisy. Some residents felt that too much space was dedicated to the enclosures, and that other park uses were limited as a result.

2023 Proposed Pilot Program (May through September)

The Parks Division proposes fewer, larger dog parks, available for 5 months in the most densely populated and heavily used areas:

1. Hyacinth Park – the most popular of all locations in both years of the pilot, can accommodate approx. .2 ha (.5 acre) enclosure.
2. Rudd Park – equally as popular as Horner Park, but better distribution and fewer homes nearby, can accommodate approx. .16 ha (.4) acre enclosure.
3. Lambrick Park – substitute for Blair Park, can accommodate approx. .35 ha (.86 acre) enclosure.

Lambrick Park is proposed as a substitute for Blair Park because it is in the same area, has ample parking and can accommodate a much larger enclosure that is further away from homes.

These locations will provide the greatest number of people with large dog enclosures. The *People, Pets and Parks: A District Wide Strategy for Sharing Saanich's Parks* will consider whether permanent dog parks are appropriate for Saanich. Testing a few, large enclosures in the 2023 program will help to inform final decisions about permanent enclosures, their number and location.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Parks Trails and Recreation Committee endorse these suggestions for the Pop-up Dog Park pilot program in 2023.
2. That the Parks Trails and Recreation Committee provide alternate direction to Staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A one-time resource request of \$30,000 was received during the 2022 budget process. Adequate funds remain to operate the proposed 2023 program.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Learnings from the 2023 Summer Pop-up Dog Park pilot program will build on those from previous years and further inform the *People, Pets and Parks: A District Wide Strategy for Sharing Saanich's Parks* strategy.

CONCLUSIONS


The Summer Pop-up Dog Park pilot continues to be very popular. Large enclosures available for much of the summer will provide consistent amenities for dog-owners, and continue to help inform a longer-term plan regarding dogs in Saanich parks.

Prepared by:




Becky Goodall
Park Planner + Designer

Reviewed by:


Paul de Greeff
Manager of Parks Planning & Development

Approved by:


Eva Riccius
Senior Manager of Parks

2023 locations

