

1. Project Information



2016 to 2019

Thanks to all who participated in the public engagement activities organized for this project including an Ideas Fair, several workshops, twelve Stakeholder Working Group meetings and a public survey. To date we've had **contact with over 800 individuals** who have provided valuable feedback about the park!

In Phase One we worked with our Stakeholder Working Group to prepare a Vision Statement for the park, concluded that a Management Plan was required, determined what the community valued about the park and identified themes for the Management Plan. In Phase Two we built upon the themes developed in the first phase and have drafted a plan (in progress), developed action items for the park and made some revisions to how the park is managed.

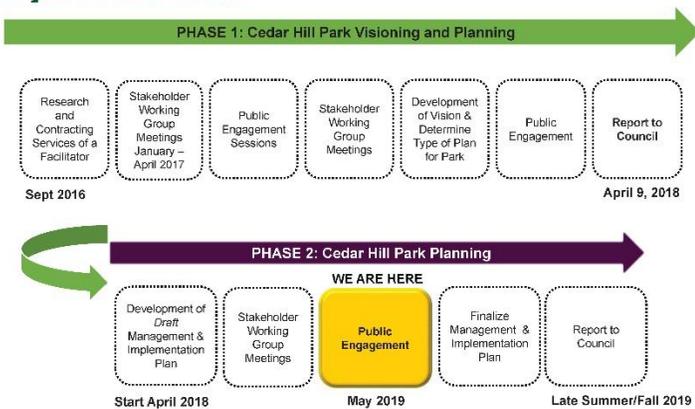
Based on feedback from this Open House, the plan will be refined and presented to Saanich Council for final approval. Tentative schedule is late summer/early fall 2019.

Note: this planning exercise acknowledges that the operations of the Cedar Hill Golf Course and the Recreation Center are not part of the project scope and that they will continue to operate in the park in the foreseeable future.

Public Engagement Activities:



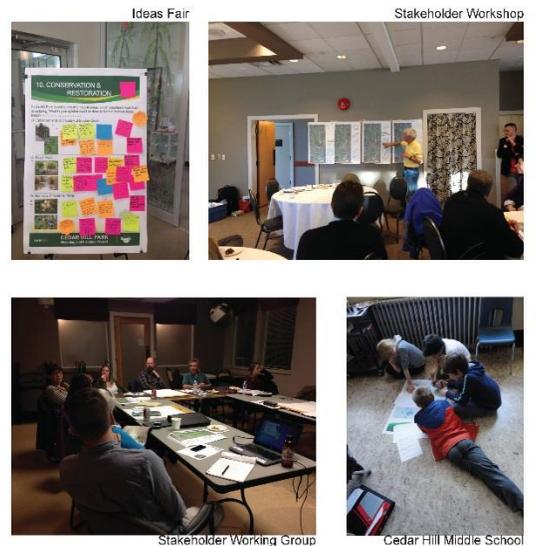
Project Time-line:



Stakeholder Working Group:

Many thanks to the following external community groups and organizations who participate with a group of four Parks and Recreation staff on the Stakeholder Working Group:

- Bowker Creek Initiative (CRD)
- Camosun Community Association
- Cedar Hill Golf Club
- Friends of Cedar Hill Park
- Mount Tolmie Community Association
- Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association



2. Vision, Values and Themes

completed in Phase One - 2017/18

Community Identified Park Strengths:

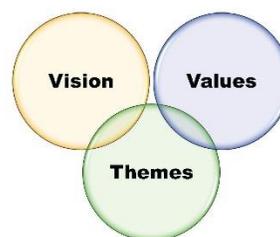
- Large, beautiful park with vistas
- Natural areas and areas of Garry Oak ecosystem
- Diverse activities in a central location
- Nice, safe yet challenging path for unstructured exercise, dog walking, transportation, etc.
- Arts Facility
- Public community golf course
- Affordable recreation opportunities

Community Identified Park Weaknesses:

- Lack of gathering/social spaces
- Limited food services
- Limited maintenance of natural areas, trails and benches
- Poor drainage in certain areas
- Inadequate way-finding signage
- Recreation Centre is reaching capacity
- Bike/pedestrian conflict at Derby, lack of good North/South route for bicycles
- Limited outdoor activities for children, youth and families
- Limited access for those with mobility challenges
- Poor access to park from Recreation Centre Parking Lot
- South edge of park (off Finalyson) is not attractive/welcoming
- Kings Pond is poorly structured / over-run with invasive plants
- Water quality is an issue for Bowker Creek – Reach 17

Vision Statement for Proposed for Cedar Hill Park:

Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement.



Out of Scope Items Relating to Both the Golf Course and Recreation Centre:

**comments received for either of these facilities will be noted in the Management Plan Appendix*

- Staffing levels and administration
- Current budget development and allocation of both operational and capital budgets
- Fees and Charges
- Implementation of recreation programs, services and rental activities within the facilities
- Future change in service levels of facilities (to be addressed in a separate Services Study and through the Strategic Facilities Master Plan)
- Implementation of building and course maintenance activities and priorities

Emerging Themes for the Management Plan (based on feedback, Vision and Values):

**The plan action items are based on these four themes which were developed by reviewing the comments received from the community and input from the Stakeholder Working Group.*

- Protection and Restoration of the Sensitive Ecosystems and Riparian Areas
- Connectivity and Mobility in the park
- More amenities for all ages – for play/exercise and gathering
- Park Management



Values Identified for Cedar Hill Park:

Preserving the Natural Environment

- Preserving/enhancing environmentally sensitive areas, including removal of invasive species
- Enhancing riparian areas (Bowker Creek, Berwick and Kings Pond) throughout the park
- Protection from encroachment into the park

A Place for Physical and Social Well Being

- Outdoor opportunities for all, including children, youth and those with disabilities/mobility issues
- Affordable access to unstructured recreation, golf and recreation programs
- Facilitate active transportation connections between and within neighbourhoods

Building Community

- Education about natural environment and park history
- Creating spaces for community to gather / celebrate
- Food services that are welcoming hubs for nourishment and community gathering

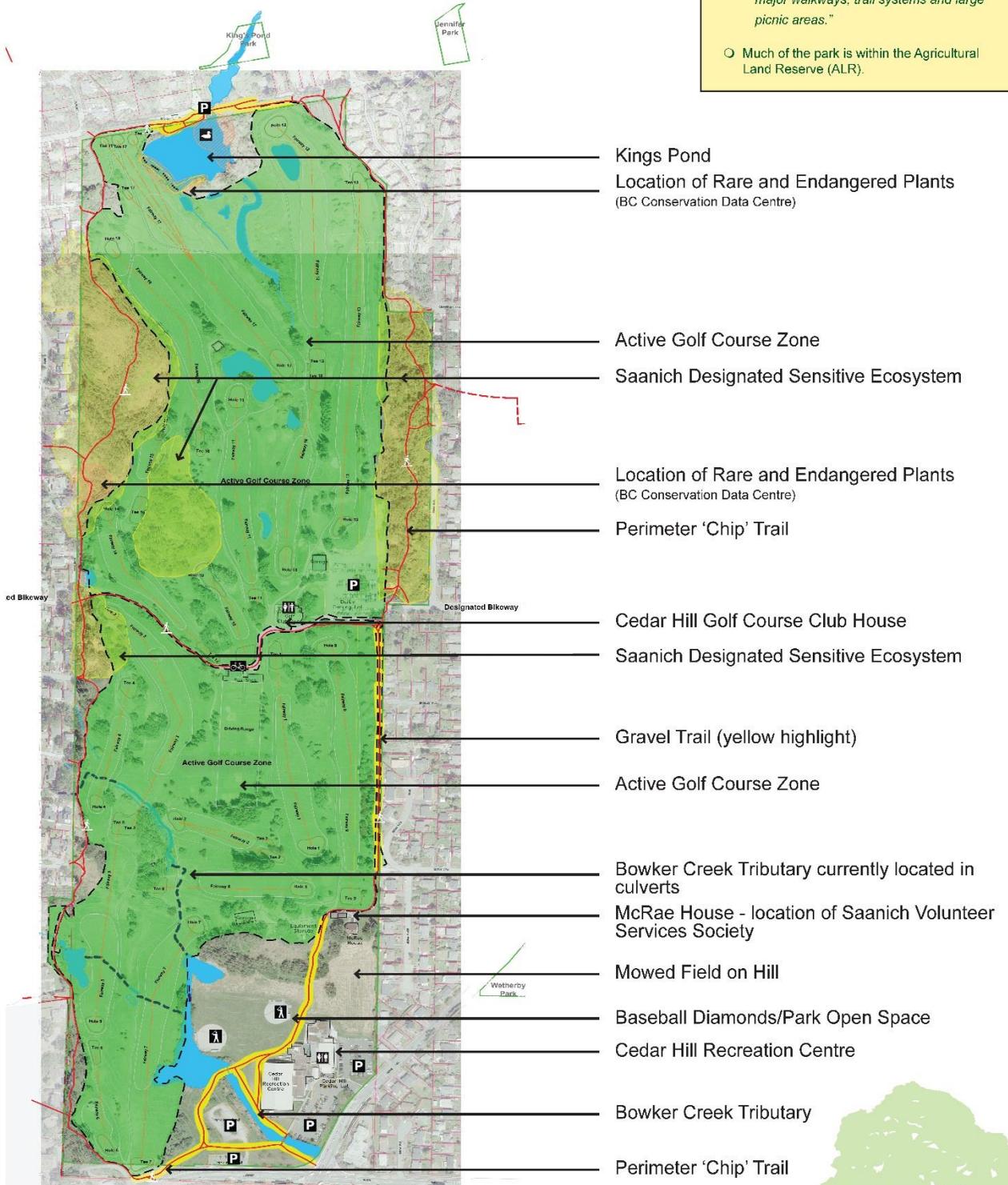
3. Context

Some Facts

○ Cedar Hill Park is 53.4 hectares and was classified in 1989 as a Municipal Park which:

"serves the entire Municipality and has a wide range of park uses. People visit these parks due to the natural features of the facilities and opportunities offered. Municipal parks draw the general public who specifically travel to spend 'time in the park'. Park features can be natural, such as beaches or important forests. They can also be built features, such as major walkways, trail systems and large picnic areas."

○ Much of the park is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).



4. Protection and Restoration of Sensitive Ecosystems and Riparian Areas

Proposed ACTION ITEMS

THEME

Reach 17 - a tributary creek in the Bowker Creek Watershed (see board 8 for more information):

- Based on recent modeling completed by Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL), develop a detailed plan for improvements to sections of Reach 17.
- Once detailed plans and costing are complete, seek funding opportunities for construction and restoration including possible community partnerships.
- Include an educational component with the plan (interpretive signs and some public interaction with the creek).

Kings Pond (see board 9 for more information):

- Complete a detailed assessment on the pond, possibly with the assistance of an external consultant, to determine the level of restoration that may be required.
- Based on the assessment, develop a naturalization and restoration plan.
- Once detailed plans and costing are complete, seek funding opportunities for construction and restoration including possible community partnerships.

Natural Areas Preservation and Restoration:

- Utilize current policies and guidelines (Saanich Invasive Species Management Strategy, Saanich Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines & Action Plan, etc.) to develop a plan of action for a systematic planned approach to removing invasive species and restoring areas in the park, which would include mapping, guidelines and education.

Certification from Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries for Golf Courses:

- Create avenues for golf course staff to work with specialists who have expertise in golf course maintenance & design, natural areas management (including parks staff), mapping, etc., to assist in achieving Audubon certification.
- Review how new Best Management Practices (BMPs) will affect work in the public portions of the park.



Garry Oak Meadow



Saanich Parks Pulling Together Program - Invasive species removal in parks



CEDAR HILL PARK
Management Plan



5. Connectivity and Mobility

in the park

Proposed ACTION ITEMS

THEME

PARKING LOTS AND ENTRANCES:

- When restoring or upgrading parking lots located in the park, introduce environmental enhancements (e.g., stormwater management) that will help make the parking lots more attractive and compliment the natural values the community has identified for the park.
- Improve entrances to parking lots and make them more identifiable as a park by utilizing the existing Park ID Sign Strategy. Other entry features that can be implemented includes interpretive signs, kiosks, maps and landscaping.
- Restore Kings Pond viewing area and make improvements so that it is accessible, safe and features interpretation panels and other public education opportunities.

MULTI-USE TRAILS (see board 10 for more information):

- Make improvements to the Derby Road East/West trail so that it functions better as a multi-use trail and provides a clear and safe route for cyclists, pedestrians and golfers to navigate in the area between the Pro Shop, Clubhouse and the Derby Road parking lot.
- As per the Active Transportation Plan, review the Northeast corner of the park to determine if it is possible to design a bicycle route - one that minimizes user conflict and environmental impacts. Should this route be possible the route would require careful design to ensure that conflict between cyclists and pedestrians is reduced. Further public consultation will be required. Cycling should not be allowed on this portion of the trail until these upgrades are implemented.
- Update the bylaw to state that cycling is only permitted on multi-use trails in the park and not on the perimeter trail or the golf course tracks.

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS:

- Create an accessible, paved trail in a suitable area in and around the Recreation Centre and ball fields, including some interaction with Reach 17.
- Upgrade Kings Pond viewing area so that it is accessible for those with mobility issues to reach the pond viewing area from the parking lot.
- Review the feasibility of modifying the two steep areas (north of Berwick Pond and area between McRae House and Recreation Centre) so that grades are more manageable.
- Review and redesign user conflict areas and trail surfaces at Derby Road and at Oceanview Road near McRae House to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for trail users, yet still allowing for occasional vehicle traffic.



6. Amenities for All Ages - for Play, Exercise and Gathering

Proposed ACTION ITEMS

THEME

BASEBALL DIAMONDS:

- Upgrade the two youth sized fields with improved drainage. When budget and time allows develop design plans to upgrade this amenity.
- Ensure fields can be utilized for other activities (special events, fairs, etc.) by providing power, water and possibly lighting to the fields.

BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES:

- Identify possible locations for picnic tables in the park.
- Place benches in select areas to enhance service but not over saturate the park.
- Install tables and benches as budget and/or the furniture donation program allows.

SOCIAL SPACES:

- Ensure the open ball fields behind the recreation centre are upgraded to ensure that special events can be held there. This would include proper drainage as well as access to power and water.
- Develop design plans to upgrade the fields to function as a multi-use space.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - AGES 12 TO 18 (see board 11 for more information):

- Identify possible locations for a youth specific amenity that can accommodate older children between the ages of 12 and 18. Suggestions include a bike skills course, a parkour course, a ropes course etc..
- Involve youth representatives to help create design plans for this active park amenity.

PLAYGROUND FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 (see board 12 for more information):

- Identify possible locations for a playground that can accommodate both younger children aged 2 to 5 and older children aged from 5 to 12. Given the Municipal classification of Cedar Hill Park, the playground should be unique and different than the traditional playground found in local neighbourhood parks.
- Consult with families who have young children to help create design plans for this active park amenity.

OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT:

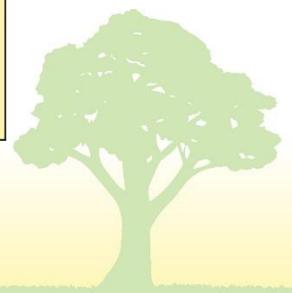
- Identify possible locations for outdoor recreation equipment which are close to the recreation centre.
- Involve recreation centre staff to develop design plans for this active park amenity.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD/GARDENS:

- Identify appropriate location and size for a community orchard in the park should a community group form to plant, maintain, manage and harvest this park amenity.

NOTE:

- If/when, the Recreation Centre faces the need to expand, then a separate public engagement process will be conducted allowing the community to provide input.
- There has been a proposal through the Saanich Parks Washroom Strategy that a 'Portable Toilet' be placed at Kings Pond on a trial basis.



7. Park Management

Proposed ACTION ITEMS

THEME

COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY:

- Friends of Cedar Hill Park and surrounding Community Associations to be encouraged to invite Park Managers/Supervisors to a meeting once a year to discuss upcoming park projects.
- In keeping with Saanich's Public Engagement Policy the public, stakeholders and community associations would be informed or consulted about new proposed park amenities.

SIGNAGE:

- Review all signage in the park and develop a comprehensive sign strategy.
- Provide opportunity for interpretive/educational signs on a variety of topics in suitable locations in the park.

PULLING TOGETHER PROGRAM:

- Transfer the management of the Pulling Together Program to Parks Staff who will: develop annual restoration planning; assist volunteers with week to week task setting; collect and report volunteer hours; provide volunteer recognition, volunteer education/direction and manage ongoing communication with the Golf Course.
- Parks Natural Areas Staff to work with volunteers to develop a longer-term restoration plan for this park.

MANAGEMENT OF BUILDING LEASES:

- Building, Bylaw, Licensing and Legal Services Department to manage building leases (McRae House).

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES:

- Adopt sustainable measures when future decisions and plans are made for the park such as improved bicycle parking at facilities, cycling routes through the park, and encourage carpooling to major events.

DOGS IN PARKS:

- Review the bylaw to state that dogs must be on-leash throughout the entire park and not just on trails. Having dogs on leash in this park ensures the safety of both dogs and their owners (should they wander on the golf course); helps to protect the investment of the greens and fairways in the golf course; and protects the natural values of the park.

ARCHEOLOGY:

- Ensure that all staff and volunteers working in this park are aware of the 'Chance Find' protocol should an artifact ever be found.

PARK MAINTENANCE:

- Parks staff to maintain and construct the perimeter trail except for the placement of wood chips and garbage collection which will continue to be the responsibility of the Golf Course.
- All functions inside the active golf course zone will continue to be the responsibility of the Golf Course.

ENCROACHMENT:

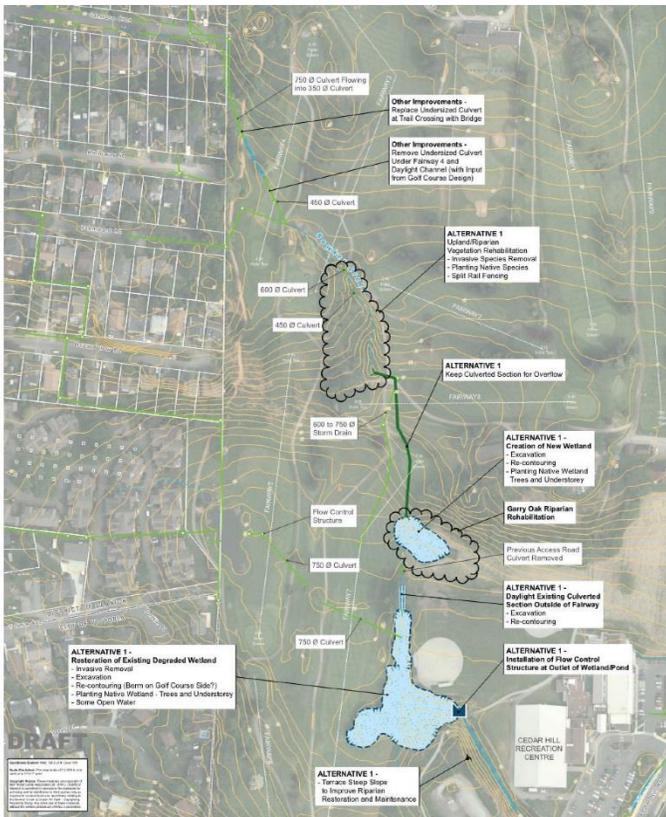
- Refer encroachment issues to Saanich Bylaw officers who will work with parks staff to educate the community about issues or work with identified land owners to rectify problem situations.



8. Reach 17... A Tributary of Bowker Creek

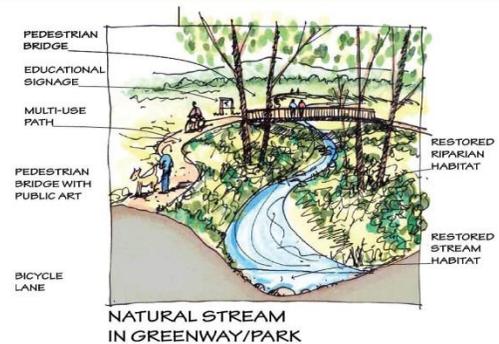


A tributary of Bowker Creek, referred to as 'Reach 17', passes through Cedar Hill Park. In 2018 KWL Engineering was hired to provide a hydrological review of proposed improvements to Reach 17 and they have prepared the following concept which, if approved would help to significantly increase the habitat values near the creek, reduce peak flows of rain storms by 10% in the park and 1% down stream in Bowker Creek, as well as to improve water quality. If this plan were approved the first step would be to have a consultant prepare a detailed design. Saanich would then need to find the funding to implement the restoration efforts (grants and capital funds). The changes would be constructed possibly with some assistance from volunteers who could do some planting and monitoring. It is estimated that the costs for these improvements will be approximately 1 to 2 million dollars.



Proposed Actions for Reach 17:

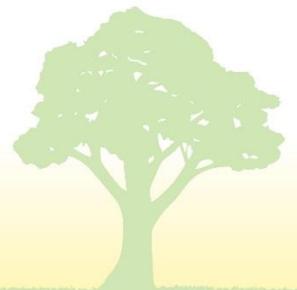
- Based on recent modeling completed by Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL), develop a detailed plan for improvements to sections of Reach 17.
- Once detailed plans are complete, seek funding opportunities for construction and restoration including possible community partnerships.
- Include an educational component with the plan (interpretive signs and some public interaction with the creek).



"The Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year action plan to restore the Bowker Creek Watershed" was approved and endorsed by Saanich Council October 17, 2011. These plans will contribute to the completion of that plan.

Examples of various Restorations:

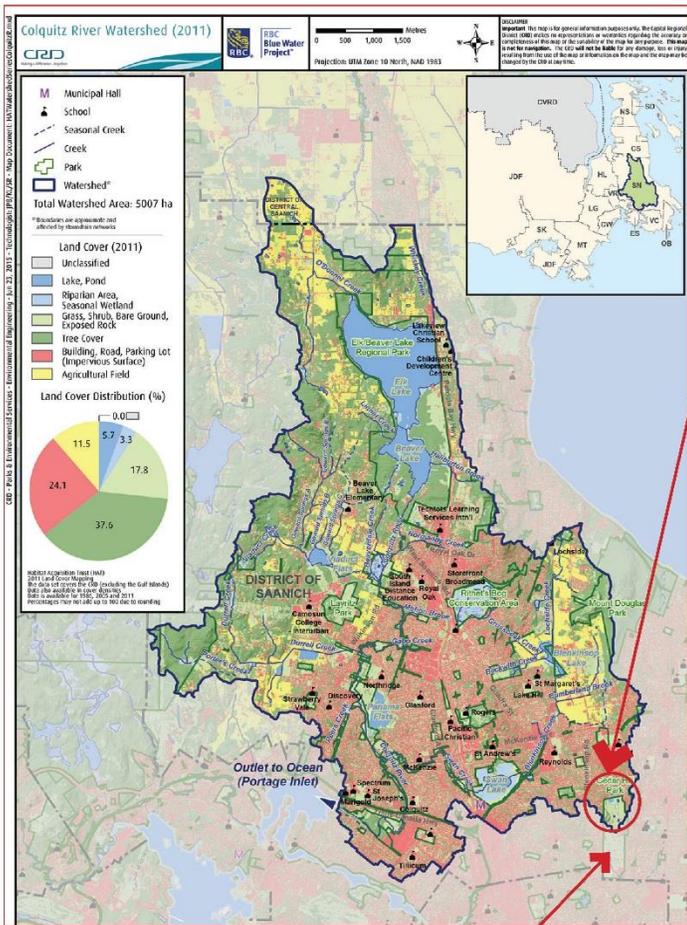
Example of a Recreational Amenity built into a restoration



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Management Plan



9. Kings Pond



Cedar Hill Park

Kings Pond is part of the Coquitiz River Watershed and has been identified as requiring some restoration. In 1993 Purple loosestrife was removed from the pond with the assistance of volunteers and some additional restoration work was completed at that time. However, since then, the pond has become surrounded by invasive species.

The viewing area around the pond, which is popular for viewing and feeding the ducks, has become 'tired' and could use some upgrades. The community have also indicated that this location would be an ideal location for some interpretive/educational signage.

Proposed Actions for Kings Pond:

- Complete an assessment on the pond to determine the level of restoration that may be required.
- Based on the assessment, develop a naturalization and restoration plan.
- Once detailed plans are complete, seek funding opportunities for implementation as well as possible community partnerships.
- Restore and upgrade Kings Pond viewing area and make improvements so that it is accessible, safe and features interpretation panels and other public education opportunities.



Kings Pond circa 1960's - Saanich Archives PR-163-1984-003-056a



Kings Pond 2018



10. Multi-Use Trails in Cedar Hill Park

Derby Road Trail:

Cyclists, pedestrians and golfers have all expressed frustration with the Derby Road trail, which is an established multi-use East/West connection through the park. The portion near the clubhouse is considered to be a high conflict area. The trail is shared but some user conflict occurs and the trail could benefit from design upgrades. Bicycle counts conducted in the summer of 2018 indicate that approximately 2,300 cyclists use the Derby Trail each month and that peak use is M-F in the morning and afternoon indicating that it is a known bicycle commuter route.

Proposed Multi-use Trail in NE Corner of Park:

Cyclists who want to travel North/South do not have a safe route to travel in and around Cedar Hill Park. This issue has been brought forward by cyclists since 2003, when council supported the idea of cyclists accessing the trail in the N/E corner of the park provided they dismount and walk bicycles from Queensbury/Ascot to Glacier. More recently, this portion of the perimeter chip trail has been identified in the Active Transportation Plan (adopted by council in 2018) as a section of trail that has the potential to be upgraded to provide a safe active transportation connection in this area. The 2017 Cedar Hill Park survey, also indicated the community felt cycling connections could be improved and/or increased in Cedar Hill Park.

By providing an opportunity for bicycles to safely access this portion park, cyclists can bypass the steep topography in this area (Jennifer Hill) allowing recreational and commuter cyclists to travel more safely and enjoyably.

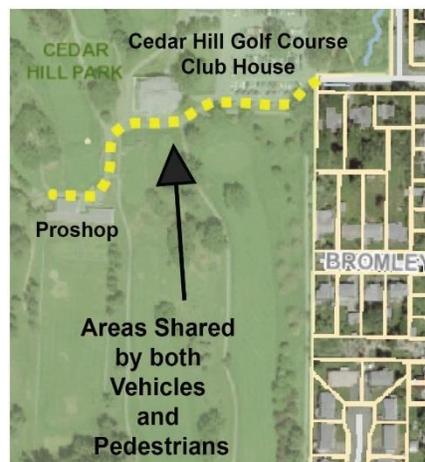
In 2003 council stated that cycling should not be allowed on the remainder of the perimeter trail as it was designed as a pedestrian trail and the terrain does not lend itself for a multi-use trail. It is proposed that the bylaw be updated to support this council motion.

Proposed Actions for Multi-Use Trails:

- *Make improvements to the Derby Road East/West trail so that it provides a clear and safe route for cyclists, pedestrians and golfers.*
- *As per the council approved Active Transportation Plan, review the N/E corner of the park to determine if it is possible to design a bicycle route - one that minimizes conflict and environmental impacts. Should this route be feasible it would require careful design to ensure that conflict between cyclists and pedestrians is minimal. Public consultation will occur should detail design move forward. Cycling should not be allowed on this portion of the trail until these upgrades are implemented.*
- *Review the bylaw to support the council motion that cycling is only permitted on multi-use trails in the park and not on the perimeter trail or the golf course tracks.*



Proposed location of Multi-Use Trail in Northeast Corner of the Park



Derby Road Trail - highlighting area utilized by bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles



Example of a bicycle trail in a park



11. Youth Activities (Ages 12 to 18)

Examples of Various Youth Oriented Activities:



Bike Skills Course, Hastings Park Vancouver



Bike Skills Course, Powell River BC

When youth were interviewed as part of the public engagement process, they commented on the fact that there is very little for youth in this park. In the Saanich Youth Development Strategy (adopted by council in 2015), Saanich is committed to providing more activities and opportunities for youth in our parks. Current trends show that youth amenities need to be exciting and enticing so that outdoor activities can compete with less active yet exciting indoor opportunities.

Currently there are no youth oriented outdoor spaces in the vicinity of Cedar Hill Park.



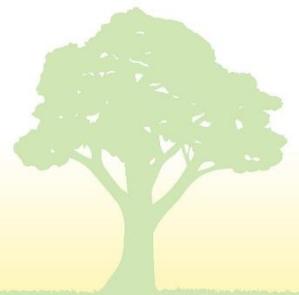
Obstacle Course, location unknown

Proposed Actions for Youth aged 12 to 18:

- *Identify possible locations for a youth specific amenity that can accommodate older children between the ages of 12 and 18. Suggestions include a bike skills, ropes, obstacle or parkour course, etc.*
- *Involve youth representatives to help create plans for the design of this active park amenity.*



Parkour Course, Langley BC



12. Playground for Children Under 12

Examples of Children's Playgrounds:



Natural Playground, location unknown



Terra Nova Park, Richmond BC

What we heard from park visitors was that this park does not have a children's play area. However, there are a number of parks in the vicinity of Cedar Hill Parks that do have playgrounds for children in this age category (Browning and Oswald Parks as well as Doncaster School).

It is a standard of Saanich Parks to provide separate opportunities (often within the same play space) for both younger children aged 2 to 5 as well as older children between the ages of 5 to 12.



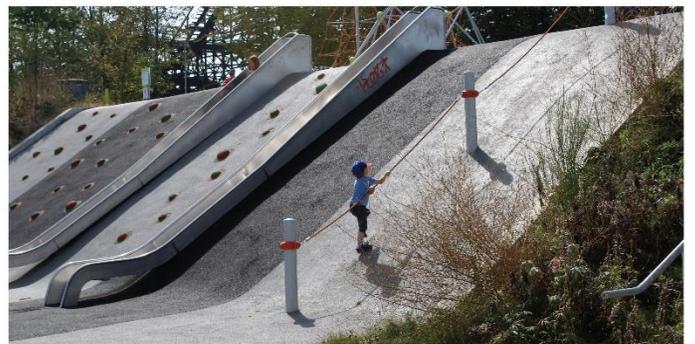
Theme Playground, location unknown



Tower Playground, location unknown



Zipline, location unknown



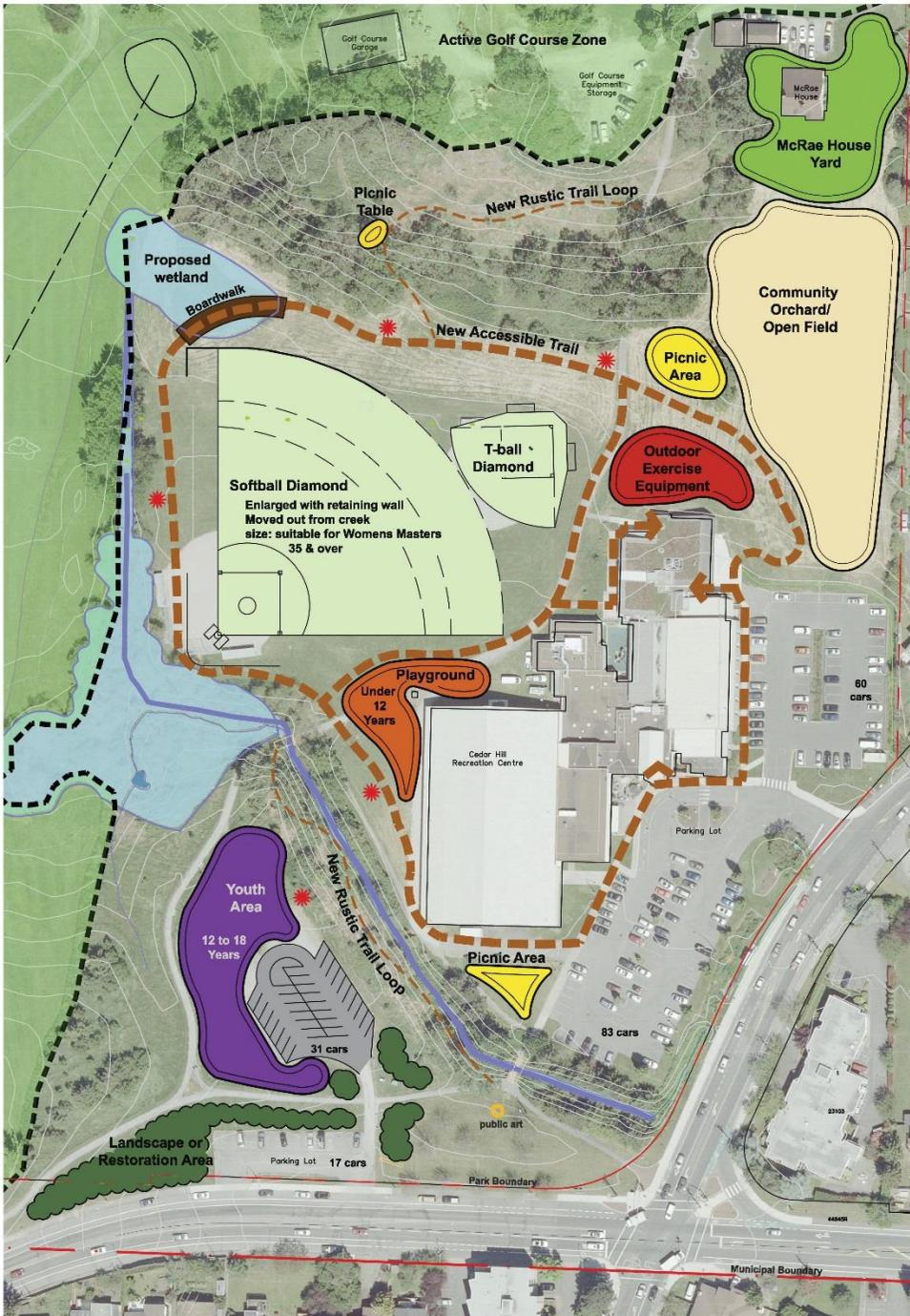
Slides and Climbing, Hastings Park, Vancouver BC

Proposed Actions for Playground for Children Under 12:

- Identify possible locations for a playground that can accommodate both younger children aged 2 to 5 and older children from 5 to 12 years old. Given the Municipal classification of Cedar Hill Park, the playground should be unique and different than the traditional playground found in local neighbourhood parks.
- Involve families with young children to help create design plans for this active park amenity.



13. Open Space Option A

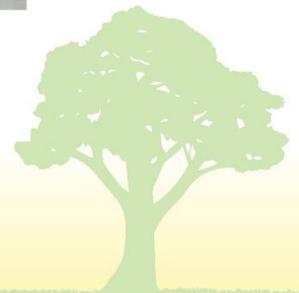


Scale NTS



May 2019

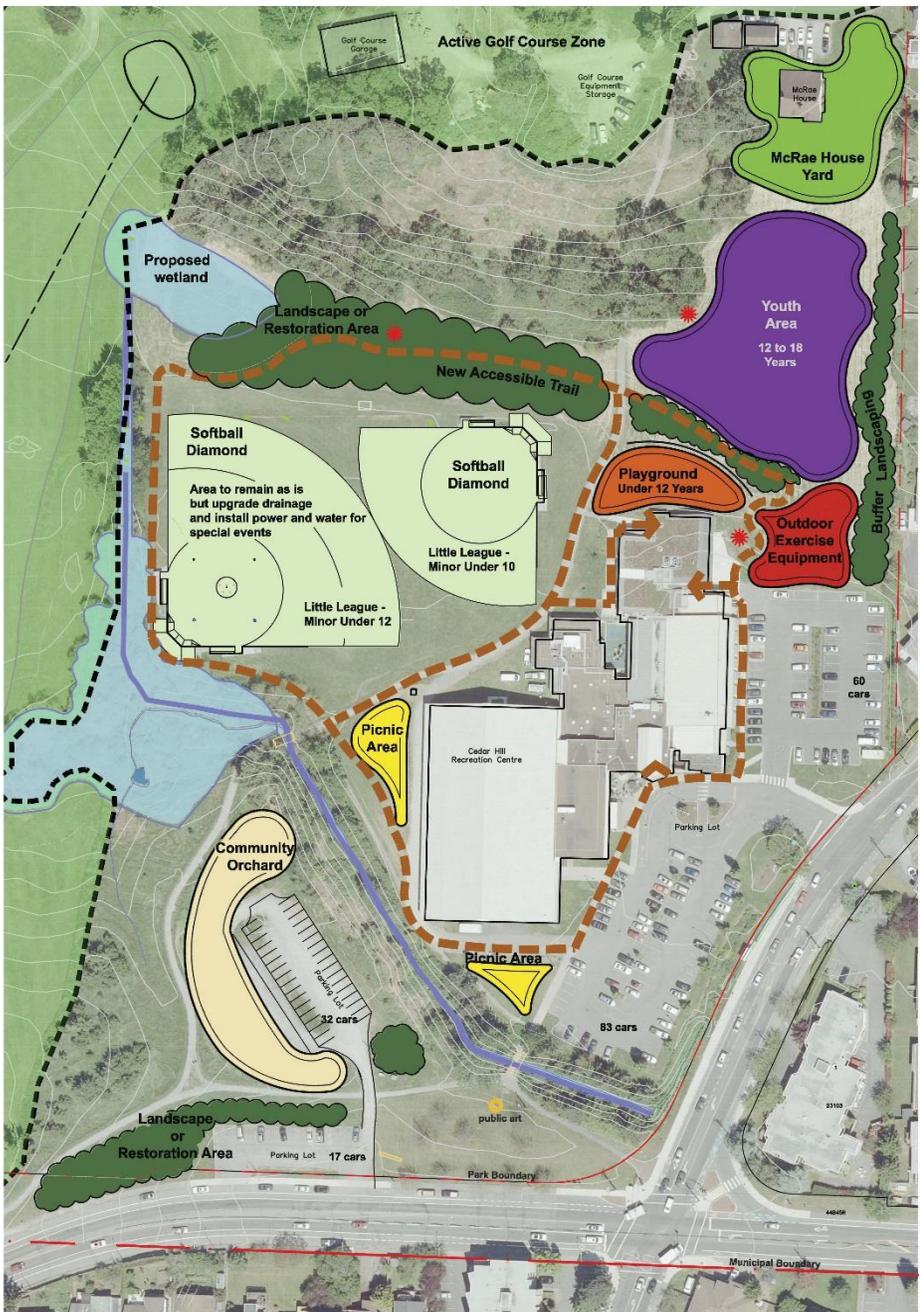
* = possible new bench locations



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14. Open Space Option B



Scale NTS



May 2019

* = possible new bench locations



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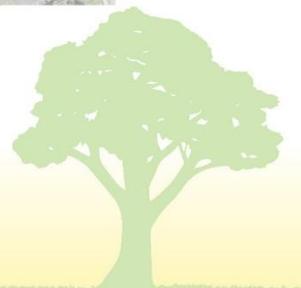
15. Comments

Please provide any comments you have here:



16. Comments

What are your ideas for the Open Space?



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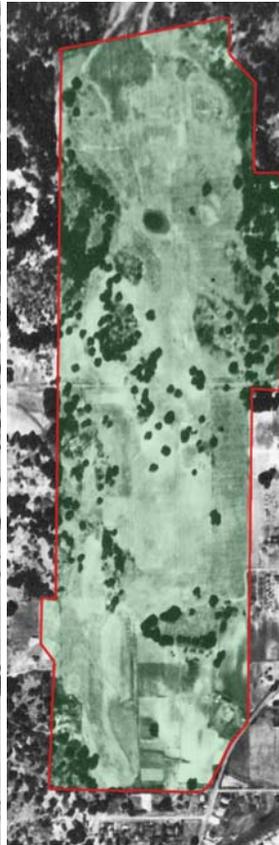


17. Park History

The area where the park is located was once utilized by many generations of the Lekwungen (Songhees, Esquimalt, and Saanich) First Nations. A number of landowners and leaseholders then managed the property prior to Saanich obtaining the land for Parks and Recreation purposes in 1967. Kings Pond, located in the north end of the park, was one of the original ponds in the area and continues to be a popular feature in the park. Initially, the Golf Course was developed by a golf pro who leased the land from the McRae family. The Golf Course was run as a private enterprise from 1921 to 1967.



1928



1946



1966

Source: UVIC Map Library



2015
Source: Saanich GIS



Victoria District Official Map (1858)
with overlay by Saanich Planning Department (2007)
Source: Saanich Archives/Planning Reference Maps



Davenport Street Map (1921)
Proposed Subdivision?
Source: UVIC Map Library

