

October 11, 2019

Re: Youth Park at George Tripp Hydro Sub-station

The District of Saanich has agreed to licence a one-acre portion of land from BC Hydro for the development of a youth park. The youth park will offer elements designed to promote adventure and increase physical and healthy activities. Saanich Council has approved capital funding towards construction of the facility.

So what exactly is a youth park? A youth park can take many different forms but generally, it has some built elements such as a bike track or jumps, climbing and balancing elements and can provide opportunities for expressing creativity (e.g., street art walls) and social space.

The way forward includes meeting with local youth to hear their ideas about what a youth park means to them. Once we have an idea of what types of activities and elements our youth would like to see at the park we will develop a few options to share with residents. Several weeks ago Parks staff met with the president of the North Quadra Community Association who shared a few concerns that some residents have raised. Staff have also heard directly from a few community members about these same issues and are receptive to dealing with them as part of project planning and site management.

Council recognizes there is a strong demand for outdoor youth recreation in Saanich and is committed to building this youth park which is a crucial component of Saanich's Youth Development Strategy (2016-2020). Their support provides an opportunity to provide a dedicated facility for our youth to engage in healthy, active pursuits. The partnership with BC Hydro allows a unique way to provide a youth park without the need to purchase or use existing park space elsewhere.

If you have any questions please call me or the Project Planner, Mike Goldsworthy at 250-475-5522. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Gary Darrah,
Manager, Park Planning and Development

CC: Mike Goldsworthy, Park Planner + Designer
Eva Riccius, Senior Park Manager
Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation
President, North Quadra Community Association