



NEWS RELEASE

February 21, 2017

VIU Students to Engage Public on Priorities for Parksville Parks

The City of Parksville is undertaking a consultation strategy to update the Community Park Master Plan and complete a survey on all park spaces. Students from Vancouver Island University, in partnership with the City of Parksville will engage residents about their vision and priorities for park land in Parksville, with specific focus on the Community Park. This process, expected to complete in October 2017, will yield a long-term, comprehensive document which will provide direction for managing and developing the Community Park over a twenty-year time horizon.

Activities relating to this project will be a detailed site analysis, asset inventory and significant community engagement which include three major public consultation events (two World Cafés and an open house), "picnic table meetings" with stakeholders and user groups, an online/in-person/mail-out survey and a final report for Council consideration. The final report will also include a detailed action plan with short-term, mid-term and long-range goals and estimated project cost details.

The results of the information gathered during public engagement sessions will be presented to the community later this year, prior to bringing the draft forward to Council. Research and engagement with the residents, visitors, community groups and organizations, Council and City staff will be used to provide data and information which will enhance the parks system.

After meeting with VIU students last week, Mayor Marc Lefebvre said, "The City is privileged to have this opportunity to work with the Master of Community Planning Program students from VIU. Council looks forward to a successful working relationship and the opportunity for a significant public engagement throughout the process."

A "Parks on the Street" event will take place on Saturday, March 4 from 10 am to 3 pm hosted at several locations across the City. This event will be the first opportunity for citizens to share what they would like to see for the future of their parks. Additional information about the "Parks on the Street" event will be made available on the City's website.

###

For more information:

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications dtardiff@parksville.ca

250 954-3073

City of Parksville | 100 Jensen Avenue East (P O Box 1390), Parksville, BC V9P 2H3 Phone 250 248-6144 | Fax 250 954-4685 | <u>www.parksville.ca</u>