



# COMMUNITY PARK MASTER PLAN



2017 - 2037



# The Community Park



# Acknowledgements

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan was completed by the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute at Vancouver Island University (VIU). This project was completed by students and faculty at Vancouver Island University.

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# Executive Summary

In January 2017, the City of Parksville and Vancouver Island University (VIU) initiated a strategic process to review the 2006 Community Park Master Plan and to complete a new 2017 Master Plan. The 2017 Community Park Master Plan is intended to provide the City of Parksville with a framework that will be used to guide decision making in the short and long-term planning and management of the park.

The Community Park Master Plan was conducted in five phases:

1. A background review of relevant policy and documents;
2. A park assessment to identify opportunities, issues and constraints;
3. A public engagement process to identify the needs and aspirations of park users;
4. An analysis of planning information; and
5. Final development of concept and action plan of recommendations.

### Community Park Master Plan Process:



The public engagement process included conversations with local First Nations, three interactive community events, interviews with 17 identified park user groups, and two public opinion surveys targeted at residents and tourists. The consultation involved approximately 1,400 participants.

The City of Parksville’s Community Park has been described by many as the crown jewel of the City. It is one of the most popular destinations for the area’s 12,500 residents as well as for visitors from other parts of Canada and around the world. The park’s stunning beach and surrounding landscape are part of the Coast Salish traditional territories, whose peoples have lived in the region since time immemorial. The creation of the Community Park itself was a collaborative community effort in the 1960s after European settlement and the establishment of the Village of Parksville. Residents joined together to acquire the park land which was granted to the Village of Parksville in 1963 by the Parksville and District Community Society to “be maintained in perpetuity as a park for the residents of the Village of Parksville and the Nanoose Land District”(Deed of Land, 1963). With this in mind, it was essential that the

community play a significant role in shaping the vision for the park and that any plan remain consistent with the original intent of the park dedication.

Five guiding principles for the Community Park Master Plan were developed from feedback generated through the public consultation process:

1. **Celebrate** the unique culture and heritage of the Parksville community
2. **Create** a more accessible park for everyone
3. **Support** sustainable infrastructure use and maintenance
4. **Protect** the natural environment and waterfront
5. **Encourage** fun and vibrant activities in the Community Park

These five principles guided the development of the short to long-term vision for the Community Park which was additionally informed by further public consultation, site assessment, and planning analysis. The Community Park Master Plan's sixty recommendations are presented in the form of an Action Plan, which proposes a series of recommended actions organized by each guiding principle along with estimated cost and timeframe. These include recommendations on physical improvements to park infrastructure and facilities, programming, signage, maintenance, and transportation. The recommendations take into account the current constraints of staff and resources to ensure that all actions are feasible for the City to implement, while also bringing together the creativity and passion of all those who cherish and use the park for a variety of uses.

The eight priority recommendations for the Community Park are to:

- Ensure meaningful recognition of First Nations in the park including development of interpretive elements
- Improve accessibility throughout the park and to the waterfront
- Develop a multi-use public square with more formalized food services and seating area
- Develop a system of user fees to support infrastructure and maintenance
- Rename the Community Park
- Redevelop existing entrance to the Community Park and connect Beachfront Drive from Arbutus Point to the entrance
- Relocate the Regional District of Nanaimo Curling Rink facility
- Establish a contextual connection to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan conforms to the 2013 Parksville Official Community Plan (OCP) and City of Parksville policies and bylaws. Although the Community Park Master Plan relates to the 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, it is not in conformance as the plan will be reviewed in 2017-2018.

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# INTRODUCTION



## Section 1

# 1. Introduction

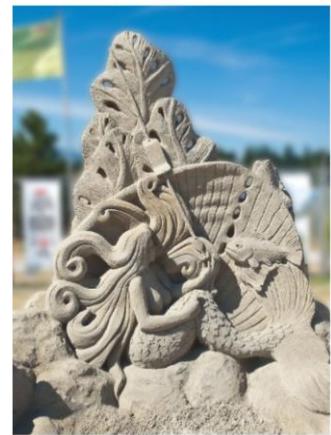
The City of Parksville is a vibrant coastal community, located on the eastern side of Vancouver Island within the traditional territory of the Coast Salish whose people have lived in the region since time immemorial. Surrounded by stunning beaches and mountains, it is a place where residents and visitors alike enjoy the wide variety of leisure and recreational opportunities.

The Community Park has often been described as the jewel of this beautiful City. Situated near the City's

centre, the park supports an

abundance of activities for people of all ages, from family events, sports tournaments, play spaces, and sandy beach fun to the more simple pleasures of walking along the waterfront, relaxation, and enjoyment of nature. The park is a space for all to enjoy, and has remained this way since the original dedication of the land in 1963.

The first Master Plan for the Community Park was completed in 2006. In 2017, Vancouver Island University was commissioned to create the 2017 Community Park Master Plan. The focus of this planning process was the creation of a twenty-year vision and a series of actions to guide management of the park. A key priority of this Action Plan was to ensure that all recommendations were consistent with the needs and aspirations of the people who know the park best – the Parksville community. Much effort was spent gathering input from the public through a six-month consultation process and generating a vision that is both feasible and true to the existing character of the Community Park which people know and love.



*Figure 1-3: Photos of Parksville's Community Park*

## 1.1 Purpose of this Plan

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan is intended to provide the City of Parksville with a framework which will be used to guide decision making in the short and long-term planning and management of the Community Park. This document replaces the 2006 Community Park Master Plan, and will relate to the forthcoming 2018 Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan.

## 1.2 Scope

The primary deliverables of the Community Park Master Plan project were to conduct a large scale public consultation process, to evaluate the existing infrastructure and assets of the Community Park, evaluate current and future usage of the park, evaluate existing policy, and to synthesize this information into five, ten, and twenty-year visions for the Community Park to meet the needs of residents, tourists, the City of Parksville, and future users. The plan includes recommendations prioritized by cost and timeframe for ease of implementation by the City of Parksville. The recommendations are based solely within the park, and do not include aspects that extend beyond the park, such as the waterfront walkway extensions or relocation of facilities offsite, which will be addressed in the 2018 Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan.

## 1.3 Methodology

To meet the deliverables established by the City of Parksville, the development of the Community Park Master Plan was completed in five phases:

1. Background Review;
2. Park Assessment;
3. Public Consultation
4. Planning Analysis; and
5. Development of Concept and Action Plan.



### 1.3.1 Background Review

To become familiar with the Community Park and to understand its current and future demand, a review was conducted of historical data regarding the Community Park, policy and planning documents provided by the City of Parksville, demographic information, and a brief analysis of regional context including climatic conditions. The summary of these documents is provided in Section 2 of the Master Plan.

### ***1.3.2 Park Assessment***

As part of the larger Parks and Trails Inventory, the team conducted an assessment and inventory of the Community Park and its existing assets. The park assessment, which was conducted with City of Parksville Parks staff, provided the baseline data about existing capacity and facilities. The inventory included a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and constraints (SWOC) analysis. Details of the Community Park's existing conditions are presented in Section 3 of the Master Plan.

### ***1.3.3 Public Consultation***

The goals of the public consultation process were to gather input from the community about Parksville's parks generally (for the Parks and Trails Inventory), identify existing and future needs specific to Community Park users, identify any existing issues within the park, and generate creative ideas and solutions to address current and future issues. The participation process also allowed for the planning team to develop an awareness of opportunities and challenges within the park and to evaluate the feasibility of recommendations. Consultation for the Community Park Master Plan was conducted over a six-month period from March to August, 2017 and involved approximately 1,400 direct participants. Highlights of the full consultation process and a list of events are provided in Section 4 of the Master Plan. This full consultation summary is located in Appendix A.

### ***1.3.4 Analysis of planning information***

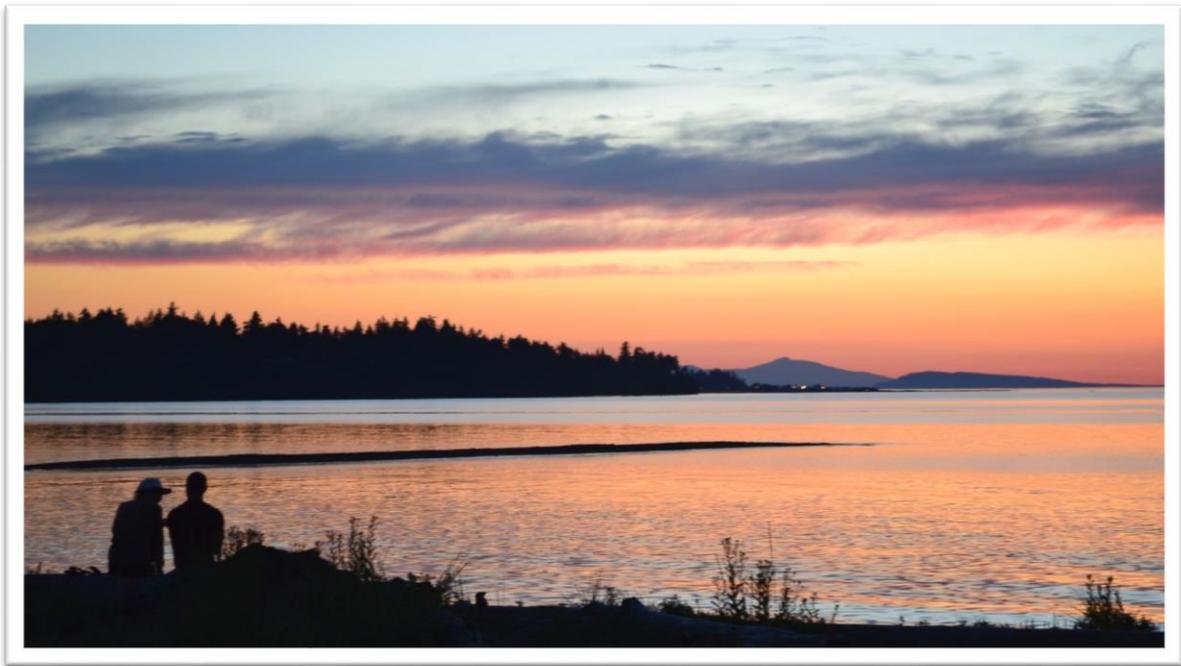
The project team summarized all of the feedback and information collected from the public consultation process, background, and parks assessment. The information was analyzed to create five *Guiding Principles* for the Master Plan, which became the basis for the recommendations within the Concept and Action Plan. Research was conducted on best practices from similarly sized local governments to evaluate solutions and present recommendations that are feasible for the size and capacity of the City of Parksville.

### ***1.3.5 Development of concept plan***

From the analysis of all project information, a final list of recommendations was developed. These were organized within the five Guiding Principles and identified by estimated cost and time of completion. The final recommendations include specific actions to address any challenges and issues presented by the public and City staff. The full Action Plan and the three concept drawings for the short, medium, and long-term actions are located in Section 6.



# HISTORY



## Section 2

## 2. History

Vancouver Island has been home to the Coast Salish peoples from time immemorial. The Coast Salish are eighteen First Nations located throughout the Salish Sea, each with their own distinct culture and language (Nanoose First Nation, N.D.). Historically, the Coast Salish peoples

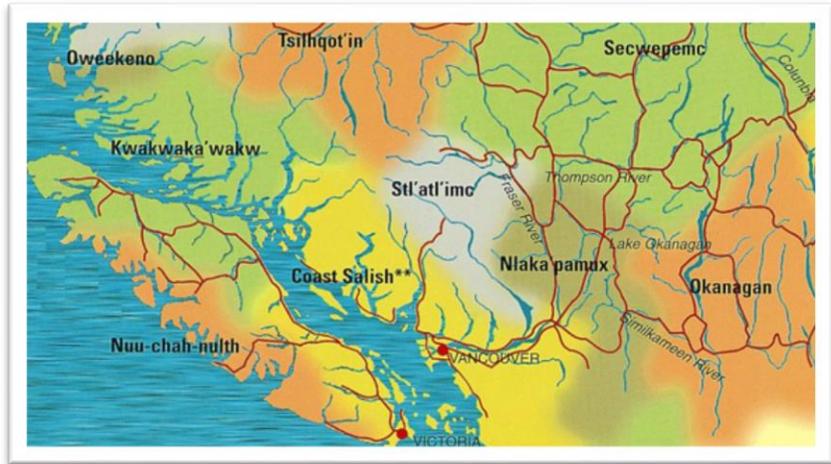


Figure 4: Section of First Nations Map BC (VIU, 2017).

lived along the southeastern coast of

Vancouver Island, all of the Lower Mainland, and most of Puget Sound and the Olympic Peninsula (Nanoose First Nation, N.D.). The first to call the Parksville area home were the Coast Salish peoples (Parksville Museum, N.D.). The area that came to be known as the Community Park served as a First Nations settlement as evidenced by the shell middens found on site and the oral histories of the First Nations.

In 1792, Vancouver Island was explored by Captain Vancouver. It was not until 1850 that the Parksville area was dubbed as Englishman's River (later shortened to Englishman River) due to an unfortunate drowning of an English gentleman while trying to cross it (Parksville Museum, N.D.). Five years after this event, the area was surveyed up to the Alberni Valley in 1855 by Adam Grant Horne on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company. This led to the building of a trail from Victoria to Comox in 1860. It was not until 1883 that the first non-First-Nations permanent resident settled in the area beside the Englishman's River (Parksville Museum, N.D.) Three years later in 1886, a 24 mile wagon road was completed from Nanaimo to Englishman's River with construction extending to Comox.

On February 2, 1887, the Englishman River Post Office was renamed to the Parksville Post Office after its postmaster, Nelson Parks (Parksville Museum, N.D.). In 1889, the population of the area from Englishman River to French Creek was 38 people, enough to be considered an official settlement which was dubbed the community of Errington (Parksville Museum, N.D.). Parksville officially became a town in 1978, and then a city in 1981 with more than 5,000 permanent residences. Nelson Parks once had a small shack on the land of the Community Park, and it is said it was during a gathering in this shack that the City gained its namesake.

The original idea for Parksville's Community Park was sparked by the Women's Institute. There were two pieces of land for sale at the time the Community Park was purchased: the piece of property Island Hall currently sits upon, and where Parksville's Community Park is today. A vote took place to determine which parcel of land would be purchased for the purpose of parkland and a board was elected to carry out the project.

The elected board consisted of:

- Robert Craig – President
- Robert Hickey Sr. – Secretary
- Col. Greig – Director
- Fred Shelly – Director
- James Kingsley – Director

In 1923, the Parksville Women's Institute raised funds to purchase 39 acres of waterfront property from Joe Hirst for the final price of \$3,500 with a discount of \$500 if the amount could be paid off within three years, which it was. This was mainly due to the determination of Fred Shelly, one of the project directors. Fred held a fundraising barn dance at his barn raising \$1,700 and hosted three separate sports days, the third of which attracted over 2,200 people. Dancers and performers were brought in from Nanaimo and much of the community was involved with the event. Though many individuals contributed to the acquisition and construction of the Community Park, the Shelly's certainly led much of the original plans. The original ball field was named Shelly Field in recognition of this founding family.

Change houses were constructed shortly after the purchase of the land, and people began using the area for camping and recreation. The space became officially known as the Community Park and was maintained by the Community Park Society for more than thirty years (City of Parksville, 2013). In 1963, the Society gave the responsibility of running the park to the City of Parksville, under the condition that the park "be maintained in perpetuity as a park for the residents of the Village of Parksville and the Nanoose Land District" (Deed of Land, 1963). The community's involvement did not end once the park was initially built, however; the Lions Club took responsibility for the children's Ventureland playground in 1985 and built the water spray park in 1991.

Since its establishment in 1963, the Community Park remains a community treasure and a central gathering place for various social and community events. The Community Park plays a significant role in enhancing the experience of the residents and visitors of Parksville, who have in turn influenced the park throughout history.



# PARKSVILLE AT A GLANCE



## Section 3

### 3. Parksville at a Glance

#### 3.1 Parksville Demographics

To evaluate current community demand for the Community Park, a demographical analysis was conducted from Statistics Canada 2001-2016 census profile data of the City of Parksville and surrounding areas.

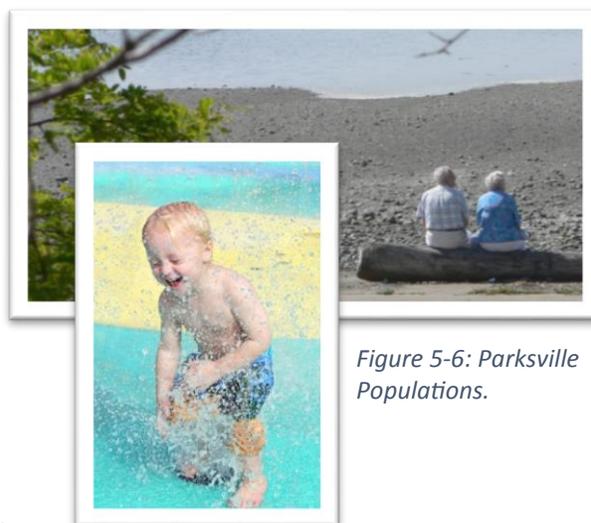


Figure 5-6: Parksville Populations.

- **Population Change:** The population of Parksville increased 4.5% from 2011 to 2016 (below the provincial average of 5%), from a population of 11,977 to 12,514 people in five years.
- **Age Distribution:** Parksville’s residents are considerably older than the provincial average and the City’s age demographic continues to shift upwards. The fastest growing age categories in order are 55 to 64 years, 65 to 74 years, and 85 years and older. Every age category of residents younger than 54 has decreased or remained the same population since 2001, though there are still young professionals and families in the community.
- **Household Income:** Parksville’s median household income is lower than the provincial average, likely due to the high percentage of retirees, but it also increased from 74% in 2001, to 83% in 2011. The trend suggests that citizens of Parksville may have more dispensable income in the future.
- **Household Composition:** The majority of households in Parksville consist of a couple (married or common-law) without children. This statistic reflects on the age demographic of Parksville, including couples who have children that no longer live in the same residence.
- **Labour Force Participation:** The majority of residents in Parksville do not participate in the labour force. This statistic is reflective of the large numbers of retirees that choose to call the City home and indicates a population with significant time for recreation.

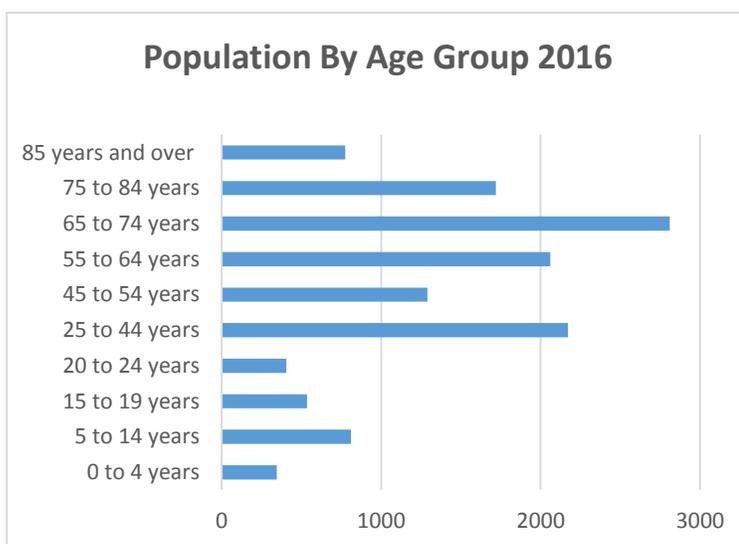


Figure 1: Stats Canada 2016

## 3.2 Climate and Environment

The City of Parksville has a mild climate due to its elevation and protected marine location, though trends are continuing to shift with global climate change.

Due to the rain shadow effect, wet Pacific weather systems from the west release their

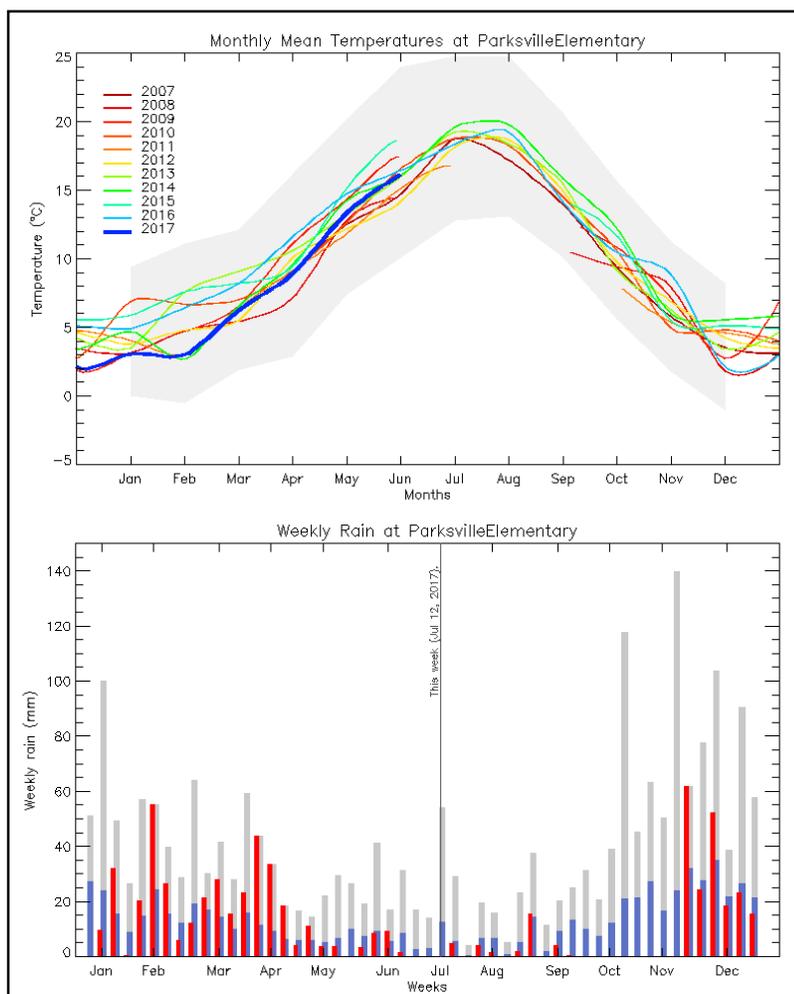


Figure 7: Source: Parksville Elementary School Weather Data

moisture as they cross the Vancouver Island mountains, resulting in a much drier climate, Mediterranean-like climate on the east coast of the Island. The summer season in Parksville is from June to September and offers partially cloudy, sunny, and dry weather. The winter season is long, wet, and mostly cloudy. Annually, Parksville averages about 2,000 hours of sunshine and 95 centimeters (37 inches) of precipitation (City of Parksville, 2017).

Due to the mild climate, outdoor recreational activities such as golf and boating are able to take place year round in Parksville. This is a key draw for retirees from across Canada who are used to more extreme temperatures. The climate also attracts “snowbirds”

who live in the Parksville area seasonally to escape the cold elsewhere in the country.

Climate change continues to become a growing concern for British Columbia as drought and wildfires continue to parch the province. With climate change and global temperature rise, the climate on Vancouver Island will also shift to become warmer (Randon, 2015). Increased forest fires and water shortages from summer droughts, and extreme rain and wind events are predicted consequences of the changing climate (IPCC, 2014). Climate change will also have an impact on biodiversity and potentially increase problems with invasive species. As a coastal

community Parkville will be impacted by rising ocean levels due to global melting of ice. This causes damage along the shoreline due to an increase in king tides and winter storm events (IPPC, 2014).

The City is located in the Coastal Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic zone, one of the smallest of BC's ecological zones (NRCAN, 2015). The region primarily contains Douglas Fir forest, estuarine, and

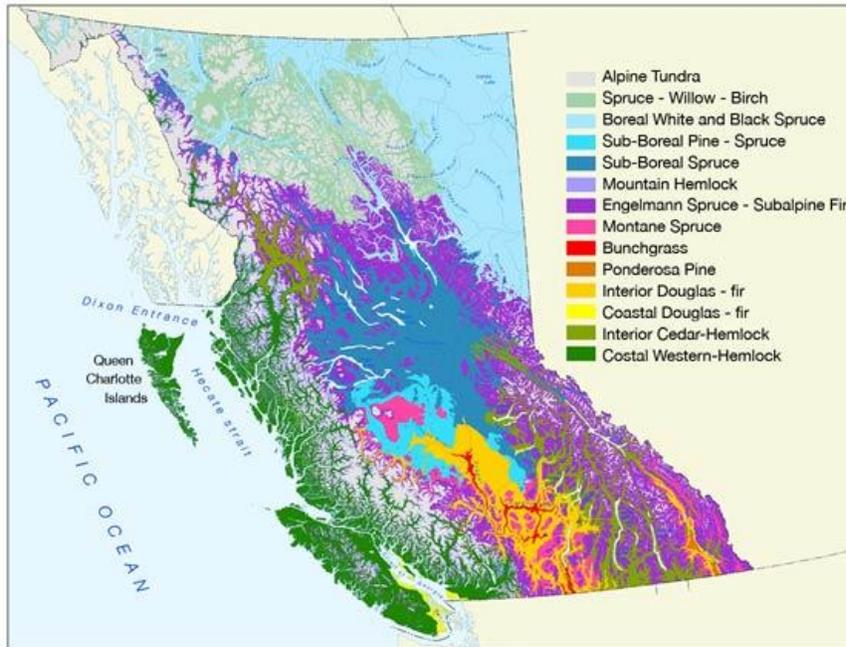


Figure 8: Biogeoclimatic Zones of BC (NRCAN, 2015).

some endangered Garry Oak ecosystems, and has been increasingly impacted by logging and urbanization.

Parkville and the shores of the Community Park are within the Parkville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area (PQWMA). The PQWMA was designated in 1993 by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and contains 1,024 hectares of

eastern Vancouver Island shoreline (RDN, 2015). The area was designated for the conservation of internationally significant intertidal, estuarine, and riparian habitat used by a range of species, most notably the Pacific Brant Sea Goose and over 60 other water fowl species.

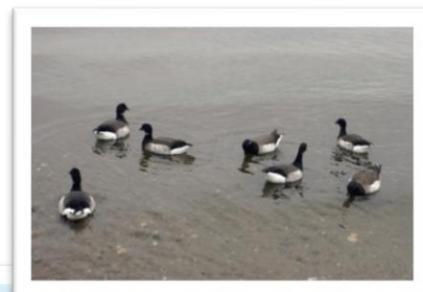


Figure 9: Brant Geese at Community Park



### 3.3 Regional Context

The City of Parksville is part of the Regional District of Nanaimo, located on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Parksville contains 257.32 hectares of official parkland, including the beautiful Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park. It is also in close proximity to Englishman River Regional Park, which it connects to via the Top Bridge Regional Trail. The Community Park is one of 55 official parks in Parksville.

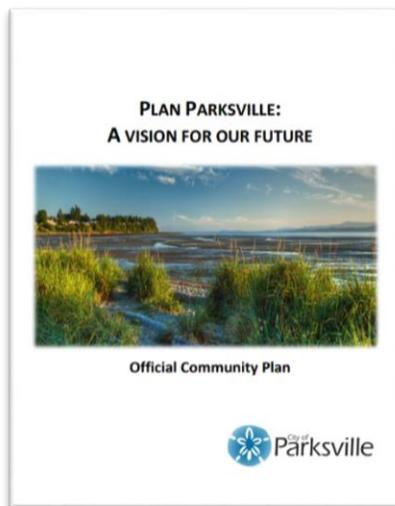


Figure 10: Vancouver Island Regional Districts (VIEA, 2017).

## 3.4 Supporting Plans and Policies

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan complies with existing park policy and bylaws in the City of Parkville. The plan conforms to the 2013 Official Community Plan (OCP) and relates to the current 2005 Parks and Open Space Master Plan, which is in the initial stages of a planning review process. A review of other planning documents provides the basis for the recommendations in this plan.

### 3.4.1 2013 Parkville Official Community Plan (OCP)



The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the primary planning and visioning document for the City of Parkville. The OCP establishes land use priorities, community vision for the future. The City of Parkville’s vision, as stated in the Official Community Plan is: “Parkville values its small city atmosphere, stunning waterfront amenities, outstanding natural setting and ecological features, diverse economic opportunities, and strong social support networks.” This vision is represented firsthand in the Community Park.

Section 5.1 General Land Use Policies provides the basis for land use decision making in the City. The Community Park’s identified future land use in Schedule B is to remain Parks and

Open Space. Section 5.2.13 provides specific Parks and Open Spaces Policies and Objectives which have been adhered to in the Community Park Master Plan. Additional policies reviewed included Section 3.0 Sustainability Principles, Section 7.0 Natural Environment, and 7.1.1 Public Space Policies. The following City priorities were identified as most applicable to the Community Park:

- Ensuring the community has input in land use decisions affecting their communities (S5.1)
- Building complete communities (S.2.0)
- Multi-modal connectivity (S2.0, S5.2.13)
- Universal accessibility (S2.0, S5.2.13)
- Protection and featuring of natural spaces and habitat (S.2.0, S5.2.13, S7.0)
- Planning for all ages (S2.0, S5.2.13)
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) (S5.1)
- Encouraging citizen involvement in environmental protection and management (S.5.2.13)
- Sustainable design of new buildings and facilities (S.3.0)

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan also relates to five of the six objectives identified in Section 5.2.13 Parks and Open Spaces Policies, which have been incorporated into the recommendations for the park:

- ✓ **Objective 1:** The City of Parksville will review the “Community Park Master Plan, 2006” and “Parks and Open Space Master Plan, 2005” to ensure the goals and objectives contained therein continue to reflect the needs and desires of the community.
- ✓ **Objective 2:** The City will explore public support and economic feasibility of expanding food concessions in the Community Park.
- ✓ **Objective 4:** The City will explore the feasibility and public demand for interpretive elements or an interpretive sign program in City parks and / or open spaces.
- ✓ **Objective 5:** The City will partner with appropriate provincial agencies and the Nature Trust of BC to acquire and develop a pedestrian oriented, accessible connection from Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park to the Community Park.
- ✓ **Objective 6:** The City will develop a policy for the location and maintenance of public commemorative benches on lands in the Parks designation.

Additionally, the Community Park Master Plan focuses on the third Parks and Open Spaces goal which is: “Parksville’s Community Park is a focal point for the City and attracts residents and visitors alike due to its natural beauty, world class beach, and multiple community events and festivals”. This goal identifies the overall vision for the park and some of its primary features that are considered important to the community.

*“Parksville’s Community Park is a focal point for the City and attracts residents and visitors alike due to its natural beauty, world class beach, and multiple community events and festivals” - Parksville OCP*

### *3.4.2 2006 Community Park Master Plan*

In 2006, a Community Park Master Plan was completed. Public input for this plan was collected from 205 participants through two open house sessions which focused on establishing the roles and priority uses of the Community Park. The plan contained recommendations for the future of the park under five priority elements:

- expansion possibilities
- vehicle access and circulation
- pedestrian access and circulation

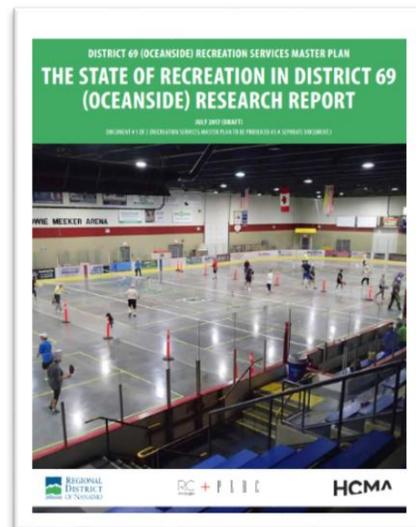
- “active” areas
- “passive” areas

In discussions with City staff, it was noted several of the 2006 recommendations were not feasible for the City to implement due to financial realities and because the recommendations were not supported with adequate community consultation. To ensure the 2017 Community Park Master Plan and recommendations are realistic and incorporate the community’s vision, the planning team has consulted closely with City staff, user groups of the Community Park, Parksville residents, and the wider public throughout the entire planning process to ensure that the vision presented in the 2017 Master Plan is cohesive and supported by the public and implementable by City staff.

### *3.4.3 2017 State of Recreation in District 69 (Oceanside) Research Report*

The 2017 State of Recreation in District 69 (Oceanside) Research Report is a summary of the consultation process conducted for the Regional District of Nanaimo’s (RDN) Recreation Services Master Plan. The forthcoming plan will guide the long-term management of recreational facilities and provision of recreational services and programs in District 69 (Oceanside), which includes the City of Parksville.

In the report, 92% of survey respondents used the parks, trails, pathways and open spaces in Parksville over the past year. Additionally the overall results from households indicate that there is high demand for the Community Park with 90% of the respondents having visited the park in the past year. The research also demonstrated that although membership is growing for both curling and pickleball activities, these make up a low percentage of the overall recreation uses by respondents. The report further indicates an increase in demand for flexible recreation activities and a trend from formal indoor and outdoor activities to more informal individual activities. The findings on this report highlight the need for planning and programming for multi-purpose spaces and facilities to allow a variety of intergenerational activities.



### 3.4.4 Downtown Revitalization Strategies for the City of Parksville (2006)

This document outlines a vision and action plan for revitalizing the downtown of Parksville. The Community Park is considered in the downtown waterfront vision and linkages between the Community Park and other areas of the downtown are prioritized. Walking circuits, which encourage visitors to leave their car are recommended throughout the park as shown in figure 11. This includes the main pedestrian connections into the Community Park at Corfield Street North and McMillan Street.

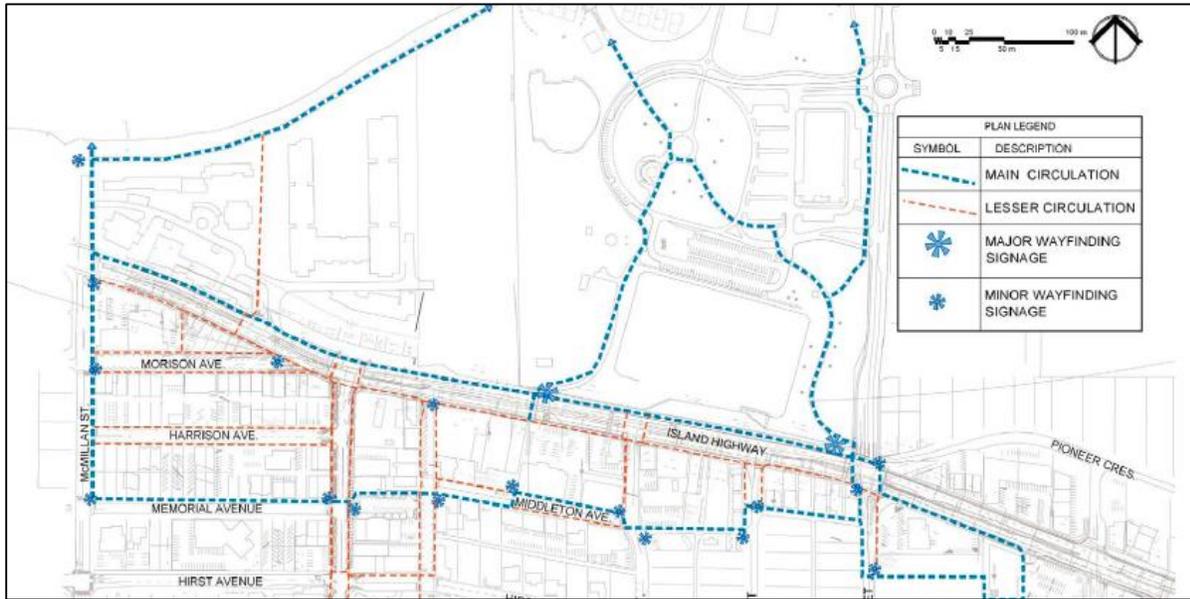


Figure 11: Pedestrian connectivity between downtown and the Community Park, City of Parksville 2006

Other recommendations from the document relating to the park include installing wayfinding signage between downtown and the Community Park, Brant Festival signage located in the Community Park, and signage indicating the Community Park as the cultural center of Parksville located in the Community Park.

### 3.4.5 Parksville FUNicular Feasibility Study (2015)

This study determined the implications of developing and operating a Parksville funicular (surface passenger transportation system) connecting the Community Park waterfront to downtown Parksville. The study found that, due to the proposed alignment of the system and lack of terminal space, the funicular concept was not viable.

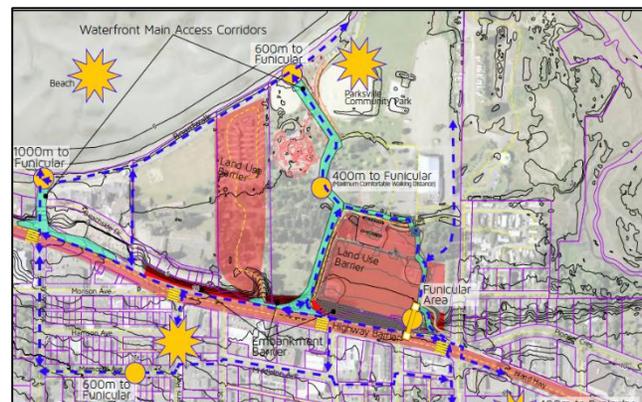


Figure 12: Map of FUNicular Feasibility, (Distinctive Mountain Recreation Design 2016)

Alternative ideas were presented, including: an outdoor escalator or carpet lift, an aerial gondola, a formalized pedestrian promenade, and a free bus shuttle from the downtown.

### *3.4.6 Other City of Parkville Bylaws, Documents, and Corporate Policies*

- **Community Park Deed:** The original grant of the land for the creation of the Community Park had two conditions: (1) the land must be used in perpetuity as a public park for recreational use and (2) the City cannot lease any portion of the land for more than five years without a public referendum. In 1987, concerned citizens challenged the definition of “public park” and “recreational use”. The City’s legal counsel determined this included uses which are openly available and accessible to the public, either for free or for a fee. It is recognized in this Community Park Master Plan that the original intent of the grantors of the park is for it to remain for public use and not for heavy commercial and industrial uses. The grant does not prevent building structures or leasing components of the park for commercial uses specific to the recreational and public enjoyment of the park.
- **Parkville Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw (2016):** This bylaw serves to regulate the use of municipal property relating to recreation, institutional or community uses. In addition, outlining general provisions and restrictions of park use, section 4.3 of the bylaw identifies the Community Park as a “sensitive area” in which overnight accommodation, the erection and occupancy of temporary shelters, and open burning are prohibited. These uses are permitted in other parks that are not deemed “sensitive areas”, subject to the list of site conditions in section 4.1.
- **Policy 3.10 Community Park – Buildings:** Established in 1979, this policy regulates the construction of “non-municipal” buildings in the Community Park. The policy prohibits the construction of any additional non-municipal buildings in the Community Park. The policy has not been revised since it was created.
- **Policy 3.34 Community Park - Commercial Recreational Use:** Created in 2016, this policy permits the seasonal leasing of the hovercraft pad for commercial recreational activities from May to November. The bylaw does not allow for the building of permanent structures or food sales at this location.
- **Policy 3.18 Food Concessions in the Community Park:** Last revised in 2009, this policy regulates how the City can tender concession services in the park and regulates when other food services are allowed in the park.

Other City policies relating to the Community Park include 3.17 Towing of Vehicles in the Community Park, 3.1 Community Park – Horses, and 3.28 Community Event Sign Advertising Policy. The Community Park is also located in Coastal Protection and Flood Area Development Permit Areas.



# Parksville Community Park Today



## Section 4

## 4. Parksville Community Park Today

### 4.1 Community Park Asset Analysis

Today, the 15.8 hectares (39 acres) of the Community Park boasts a stunning shoreline and beach with expansive sand flats during low tide. The park holds extensive assets:

- A section of the one kilometre long waterfront walkway which extends from Arbutus Point past the park to the gazebo at the end of MacMillan Street to the west
- Two tennis courts
- Lacrosse box
- Beach volleyball court area
- Curling rink
- Exercise equipment station
- Sports field with two baseball fields and four dugouts
- Lions Venture Land Playground
- Splash Park (to be rebuilt in 2018)
- Labyrinth
- Skateboard park
- Pop-up library
- Arboretum
- Eight horseshoe pits
- Waterfront gazebo structure
- Covered picnic shelter
- Second sandy area of the park which hosts the annual Quality Foods Sand Sculpting Competition and Exhibition
- A large grassy field near the waterfront known as the kite field.



*Figure 13-15: Sports field, Exercise equipment, and Gazebo (VIU, 2017).*



All Community Park existing main assets are identified on the in 4.1.2 Community Park – Assets Map.

Seating is located throughout the park in the form of 43 picnic tables, six bistro-styled picnic tables, 90 benches, and three sports field bleachers. There are six lamp posts, and multiple permanent and removable garbage cans of different styles, some of which contain a small exterior basket for returnable containers to be recycled.



Figure 16 & 17: example of signage and bistro table in Community Park (VIU, 2017).

The signage in the park consists of five park signs and eight informational signs. There are two storage areas in the park for City maintenance equipment.

Access to the park is limited to the Corfield Street North entrances, one which connects to the Beachside Drive loop and one behind the curling rink that goes to the gravel overflow lot. These entrances are also exits and there is an additional exit located to the south of the park where Beachside Drive meets Highway 19A. All roads except for the south Beachside Drive exit are two way. Several of the parking lot entrances and exits do not have stop or yield signs to indicate right of way. There are three main parking lots in the park:

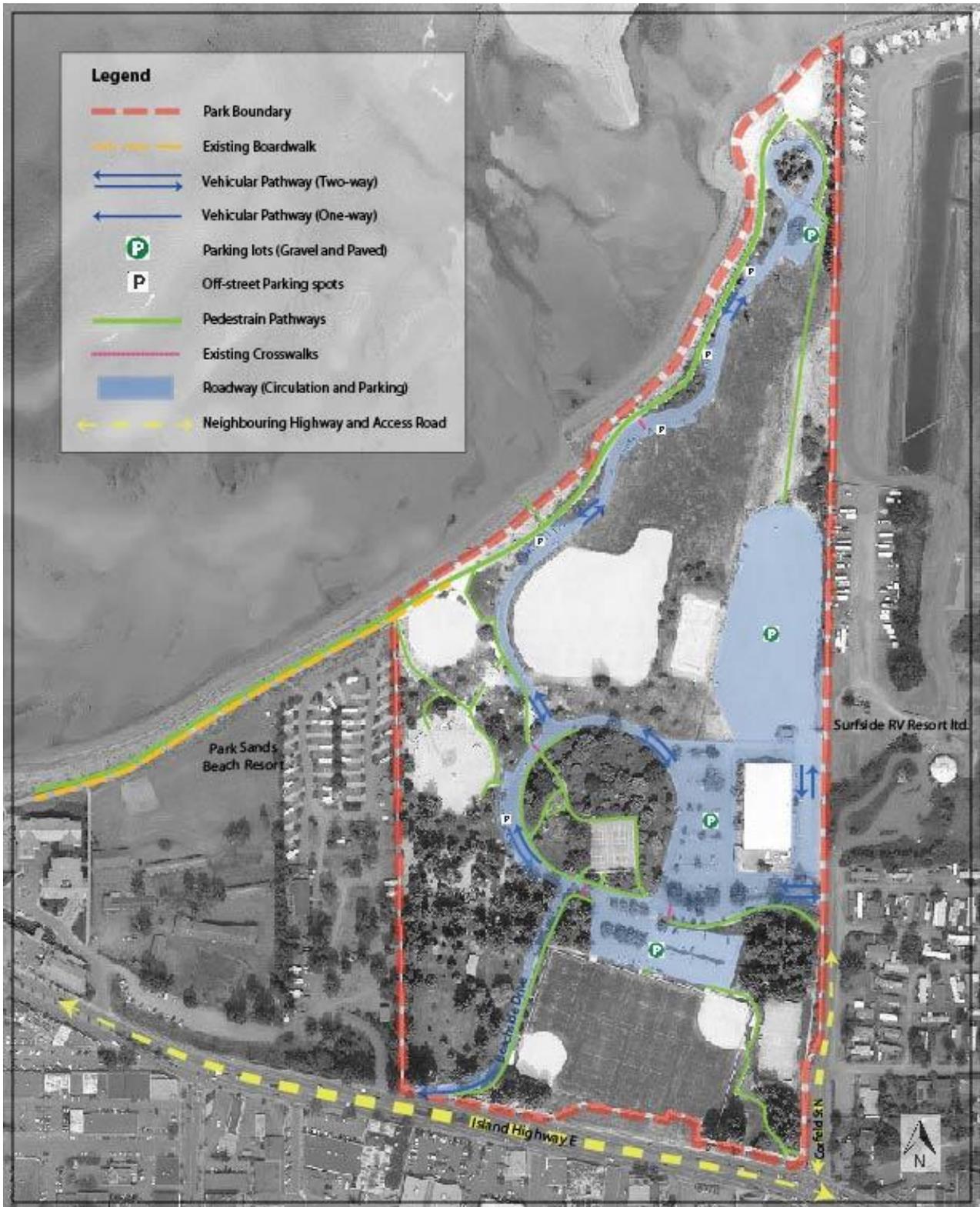
the part paved, part gravel lot by the sports field; the paved lot beside the curling rink, and the large gravel overflow lot above the curling rink. Additional parking is provided in bump outs along Beachfront Drive and there is a small lot near Arbutus Point. The street parking along the waterfront is very popular, especially for those with mobility issues.



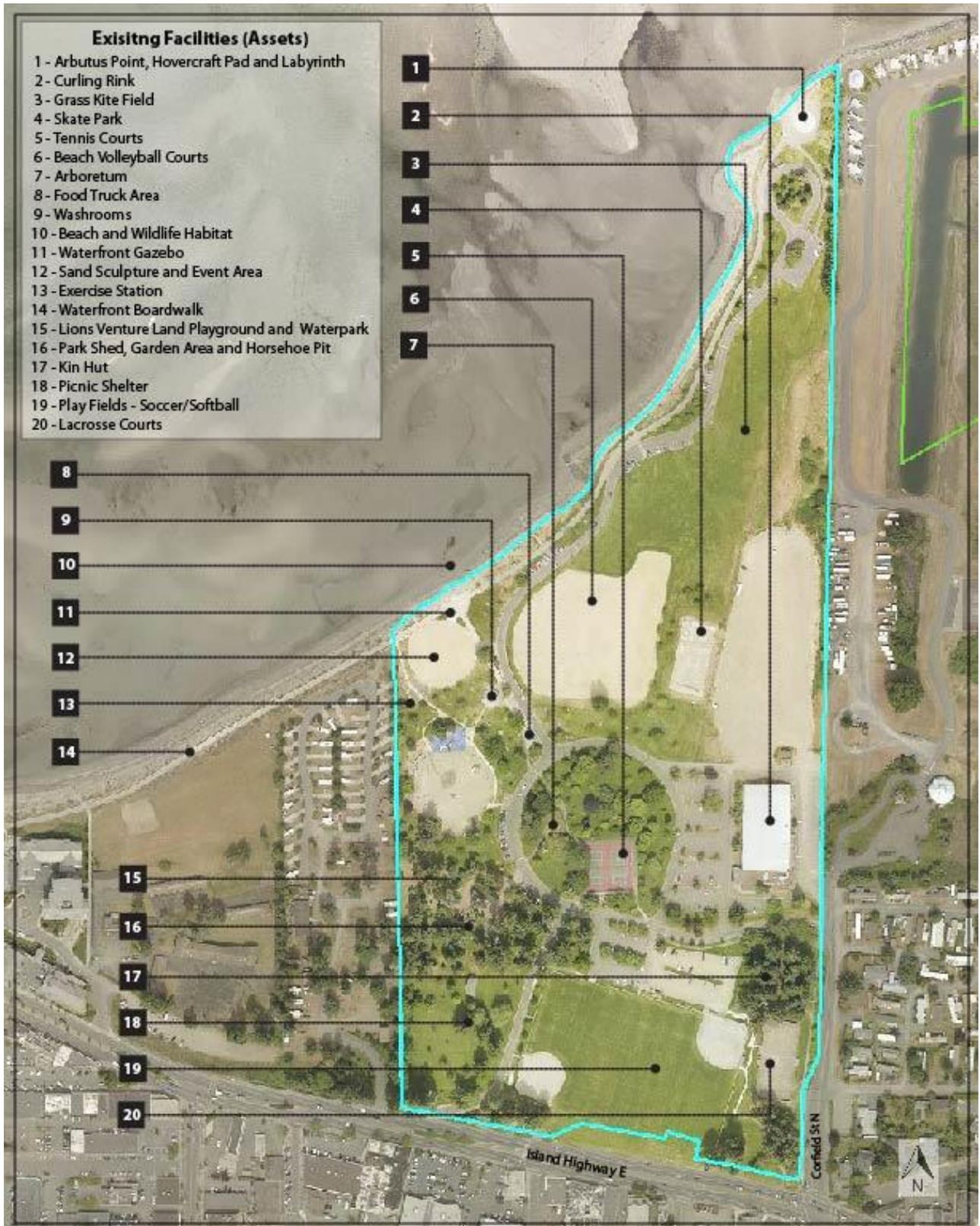
The current parking capacity of the Community Park is approximately 150 paved spaces (on street or stall) plus the gravel sports parking lot of approximately 60 spaces, undesignated overflow area behind the curling rink, which at full capacity with curling club volunteer parking marshals can hold approximately 300 vehicles. Out of all of the parking spaces, 15 spaces are designated as accessible, which is about 3%. The City of Parksville recommends a minimum of 2% parking be dedicated accessible parking in its Accessible Community Building Checklist (City of Parksville, 2009).

The main washroom facilities for the park are located in a building across from the waterpark with additional washrooms located in the Kin Hut by the sports field and near the picnic shelter. Each summer the City also provides two portable washrooms near the parking lot at Arbutus Point. Larger events in the park are required to provide additional portable facilities. There are shower stations located next to the main washroom building as well as a water bottle refill station.

### 4.1.1 Community Park - Existing Circulation Map



### 4.1.2 Community Park - Assets Map



## 4.2 Current User Groups and Activities

VIU students consulted with 17 organizations which make use of the parks system and Community Park in Parksville. Most of the meetings were conducted in person at a place convenient to the user group or an informal public space, such as a picnic table in a park, hence titled “Picnic Table Talks”. In addition to the list below, several other organizations were contacted by the project team; however, we did not get a return response. All organizations contacted were specified on a list of user groups generated by the City of Parksville.

### Community Park User Groups Interviewed

- ✓ Brant Wildlife Festival/The Nature Trust of BC
- ✓ Kidsfest
- ✓ Oceanside Minor Baseball Association
- ✓ Oceanside Minor Lacrosse
- ✓ Oceanside Minor Softball
- ✓ Oceanside Pickleball Club
- ✓ Oceanside RCMP
- ✓ Parksville Beach Festival Society
- ✓ Parksville Curling Club
- ✓ Parksville Downtown Business Association
- ✓ Parksville Golden Oldies Sports Association and Parksville Seniors Sports Group
- ✓ Parksville Lions Club
- ✓ Parksville Oceanside Pickleball Society
- ✓ Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association
- ✓ Regional District of Nanaimo Parks Division
- ✓ Regional District of Nanaimo (Recreational Programming Office)
- ✓ Special Olympics Oceanside



Figures 18 & 19: Pickleball, Beach Volleyball

The facilities which saw the highest use were the sports field, lacrosse box, tennis courts, curling rink, and the group picnic shelter. This included the washrooms adjacent to the sports field and the nearest paved and gravel parking lots. In addition to these facilities, event organizers indicated highest use of the gazebo, sand areas, boardwalk, kite field and main washroom facilities.



Figure 20: Canada Day Fireworks

### List of Major Events Hosted in the Community Park

- Parksville Beach Festival
- Sand Sculpture Competition
- Art in the Park
- Outdoor Summer Concert Series
- Quality Foods Festival of Lights Fireworks
- Oceanside Kidsfest
- Brant Wildlife Festival
- Canada Day Celebrations and Fireworks
- Lions International Kite Festival
- Van Isle Shriners Show and Shine
- Yoga in the Park

## 4.3 Key issues in the Current Park System

### 4.3.1 From Park Assessment and Interviews with Parks Staff

Several key issues were identified as needing to be addressed in the Community Park:

- Capacity issues with the existing washroom facilities, which are overused.
- Lack of clarity over future of the curling rink.
- Current lack of recognition of First Nations in the park.
- Increasing demand and competition for use of park facilities such as the picnic shelter.
- Issues keeping the sand areas contained, as they overflow onto the grass.
- Limited capacity for hosting larger or additional events.
- No revenue received from park activities or user fees which would go towards maintaining park infrastructure.
- The memorial plaque program has reached capacity in the Community Park.
- Problems with recycling in the park; people do not separate items properly from garbage disposal.
- Litter on the beach and along the walkway.
- Not enough storage for maintenance equipment in the park.
- The challenge of creating a consistent brand and character for the Community Park through signage, while also connecting to the rest of the Parksville system and the downtown.
- Balancing the incorporation of interpretive signage without detracting from the natural scenery and waterfront.

- Issues making the southern entrances into the park accessible for all pedestrians, due to the steepness of the terrain.
- Drainage issues throughout the park
- Challenges maintaining the labyrinth.
- Challenges resulting from effects of climate change, sea level rise, and increasingly severe storm events.
- Lack of pedestrian connectivity in several locations where pathways end, causing people to walk on the roads.

#### *4.3.2 From Park Users*

During the Picnic Table Talks, organizations were asked to detail their current use of the Community Park, how they see their usage changing in the future, and what things they would like changed (or not changed) in the park. The majority of the user groups expressed great satisfaction with the facilities offered in the Community Park and for the City's maintenance of these amenities.

Most sports and recreation groups indicated their membership numbers are increasing, creating a higher demand for all sports venues in the City and in the Community Park. Some users suggested additional sport facilities be located in the park, though there were differing opinions should these be covered or not. Lighting was another issue mentioned for the sports field and courts in the park as well as limited availability of washrooms and storage facilities for sports equipment.

Groups which use the City's permitting system seemed satisfied with the process, although there were some concerns regarding how the City will prioritize users as demand for the sports fields, courts, and covered shelters in the park increases. It was suggested the City make more time slots available for the sports facilities/activities.

For event organizers, there was a desire expressed to expand event capacity within the park to be able to host larger international scale events, such as a world sand sculpting competition. Suggestions were made regarding increasing access to electricity in the park, increasing available sand areas, developing a performance space, and acquiring adjacent land to expand the park boundaries. Currently there are six main events taking place in the Community Park throughout the year, plus additional recreational events, BBQs, pancake breakfasts, and events hosted by non-profit groups.



# Community Engagement



## Section 5

## 5. Community Engagement

The main goal of the public consultation process was to gather input from the community and determine public priorities for the future of the Community Park. Through this public participation process, the planning team identified some of the Parksville community's needs, objectives, and values which have been reflected in the recommendations. The public consultation process consisted of eight different components: (1) Parks on the Street Event, (2) World Café Event, (3) Picnic Table Talks, (4) Youth Engagement Session, (5) Gazebo Talks Event, (6) Resident Survey, (7) Tourist Survey, and (8) final Open House. For the ease of comparison, the survey results have been presented together.

In addition to the public consultation process, the team met twice with Snaw-Naw-As Chief and Council to discuss opportunities for recognition and acknowledgement of First Nations in the Community Park.

### 5.1 Major Community Events



## 5.2 Community Comments

The following is a summary of what we heard at each of the consultation events. The full summaries of the events are available in Appendix A.

### Parks on the Street

On Saturday, March 4, 2017, VIU students were stationed at various high-traffic areas around the City to ask passersby three questions about Parksville parks:

1. What aspects of Parksville's City parks do you appreciate?
2. What do you believe is currently missing from Parksville's City parks?
3. What changes would you like to see occur in Parksville's City parks?



Figure 21: World Cafe (VIU, 2017).

The team collected 272 responses, which were then organized into eight themes: (1) Accessibility, (2) Infrastructure, (3) Wildlife, (4) Amenities, (5) Services, (6) Activities/Entertainment, (7) Location, (8) Dogs. The themes from the Parks on the Street feedback were incorporated in the table discussion topics at the World Café.



Figure 22 & 22: World Cafe (VIU, 2017).

### World Café

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, VIU students, faculty, and Parksville staff, hosted a World Café event at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre. A World Café is a facilitated workshop in which participants take part in a series of short-themed discussions. The six discussion tables were themed: (1) infrastructure, (2) activities, (3) services, (4) wildlife and nature, (5) accessibility and connectivity, and (6) wild card (open discussion).

In total, 45 people attended the event.

Feedback from the discussion tables identified several suggestions and issues for the Community Park specifically, including:

- A need for more washrooms/ longer washroom hours
- Some desire for more parking, covered parking facilities, and parking signage
- Desire for more seating and picnic tables
- Idea of a concession, café, or restaurant in the park
- Need for better garbage facilities to reduce litter
- Idea of having rentals of beach chairs or walkers and greater universal accessibility
- Suggested updates to playground, sports fields
- Environmental concerns about wildlife conflicts with dogs
- Suggestions for additional entertainment/programming
- Desire for greater transit connections and pedestrian and bike connectivity

### **Picnic Table Talks**

As mentioned in Section 4.2, the VIU planning student team led in-person or long-distance interviews with 17 identified user groups of the Community Park. Students travelled to participating organizations' venues or other community locations to provide relaxed comfortable environment for the interview to take place. Interviewees were asked about their current and future use of the Community Park and overall parks system. The interview transcripts were reviewed for common themes and key issues, which included:

- A need for more washrooms in the park
- Desire for the City to acquire adjacent properties/ expand the park
- Idea to have a one-way road through the gravel parking lot from Beach Drive to help with traffic flow and emergency access
- Suggestion of covering some of the sports facilities
- Suggestion of developing more multi-use sports fields in the park
- Desire for additional storage and changing facilities.
- Desire for dedicated pickleball courts
- Desire for infrastructure to support larger scale events in the park

## Youth Engagement

On May 1, 2017, VIU students hosted a workshop with a grade 10 class from Ballenas Secondary School. The workshop included a brainstorming activity, where students were given large maps of the Community Park to identify favourite locations and desired improvements to the park. It was identified through this process not all youth in the class frequented the park often and there are currently limited opportunities in the park for passive youth recreation. The students came up with creative, practical ideas including:

- Additional garbage cans and seating, especially near Arbutus Point.
- Hammocks setup or for rent in the park.
- Pave gravel parking lots and provide more parking.
- Connect the end of Beachfront Drive to the gravel parking lot with a road.
- Open a concession or restaurant and serve ice cream on the waterfront.
- Provide water and bicycle rentals.
- Provide a phone charging station.
- Add more art to the park, such as a collaborative graffiti wall or fountains.
- Upgrade sports facilities, skate park, and suggest building indoor multi-purpose gym.
- More entertainment such as: a zip line/ropes course, adult play structures/waterpark, Ferris wheel, drive-in theatre.
- Expand the park to include current trailer park area.

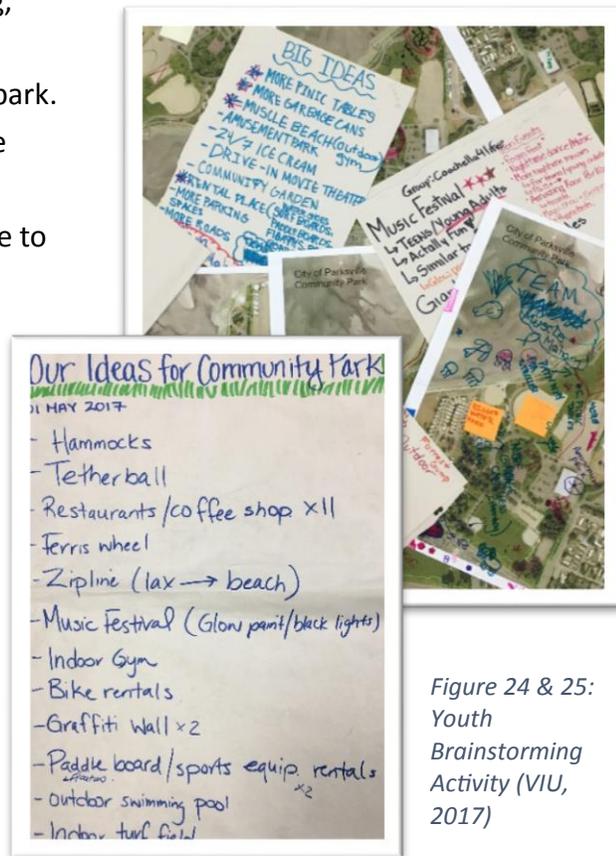


Figure 24 & 25:  
Youth  
Brainstorming  
Activity (VIU,  
2017)

## Gazebo Talks



Figure 26: Students at Gazebo Talks

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, VIU students and staff from the City of Parksville set up an open house called “Gazebo Talks” at the Community Park with about 140 participating. Part of the planning team also visited the Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce event occurring in the park at the same time, connecting with several additional participants who gave us their suggestions for the park.

Gazebo Talks was the first unveiling of the five Guiding Principles for the Master Plan which are outlined in Section 6.2. Displays were setup on the consultation completed to date, and visitors were invited to participate in Community Park history Jeopardy as well as provide their visions for the park on an idea tree and map. Young visitors were able to express their visions at a drawing and colouring station. Common feedback heard was:

- Need more garbage and recycling containers, litter cleanups.
- Desire for more covered seating.
- Desire for more accessible parking closer to events and waterfront.
- Want a concession or expanded food services in the park – specifically a place to get a coffee and an ice cream.
- Want to see more art and music in the park, such as craft markets, public art, theatre, buskers.
- Ideas to have water and sports equipment rentals, coin-operated binoculars.
- Some desire more sports facilities in the park, specifically aimed at seniors.
- Desire to protect existing nature from human and dog threats.
- Desire to have more sand on the beach, less gravel.
- Priority to ensure park is universally accessible and to improve pedestrian access from downtown.
- Desire for wheelchair and walker access to the water.
- Desire for greater pedestrian connectivity, introduction of bike lanes.
- Wish to extend the boardwalk and connect to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park.

## Resident Survey

The online resident survey was open from May 5 to June 16, 2017. Access code cards were sent to 9,037 Parksville households and hard copy surveys were provided at City offices. The survey was advertised on the Community Park events sign, news releases, City publications, print and radio advertising, and extensive social media. In total, 696 surveys were completed. While this cannot be considered as a representative sample, the survey gives a snapshot of the opinions and ideas of the residents who took the time to complete the survey.

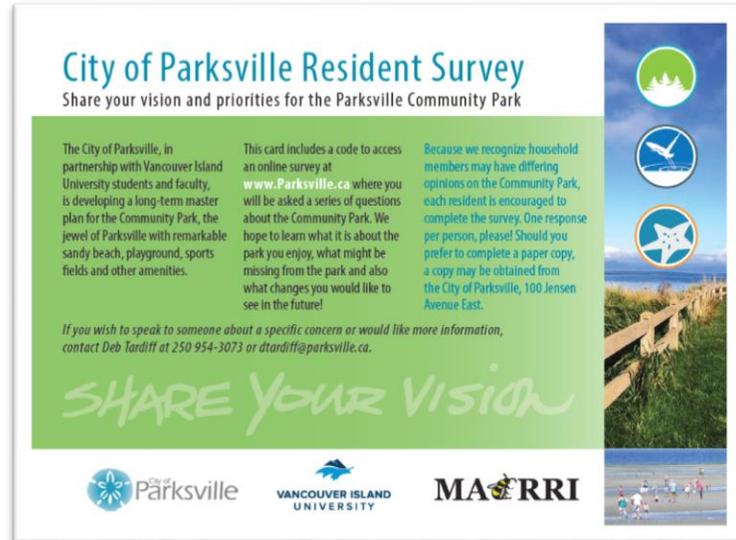


Figure 27: Resident survey card

## Tourist Survey



Figure 28: Tourist survey VIU students in Community Park

A second survey was created for tourists. VIU students went to the Community Park on Fridays and Saturdays from July 7 to July 29, 2017. In total, 175 surveys were completed. Of these individuals, 90% were from other parts of Canada, with 58% from other municipalities on Vancouver Island. Again, it is noted the survey is not representative, but provides the feedback from those who took the time to complete the survey. There was also an opportunity for interested residents to provide additional comments on the park at this time.

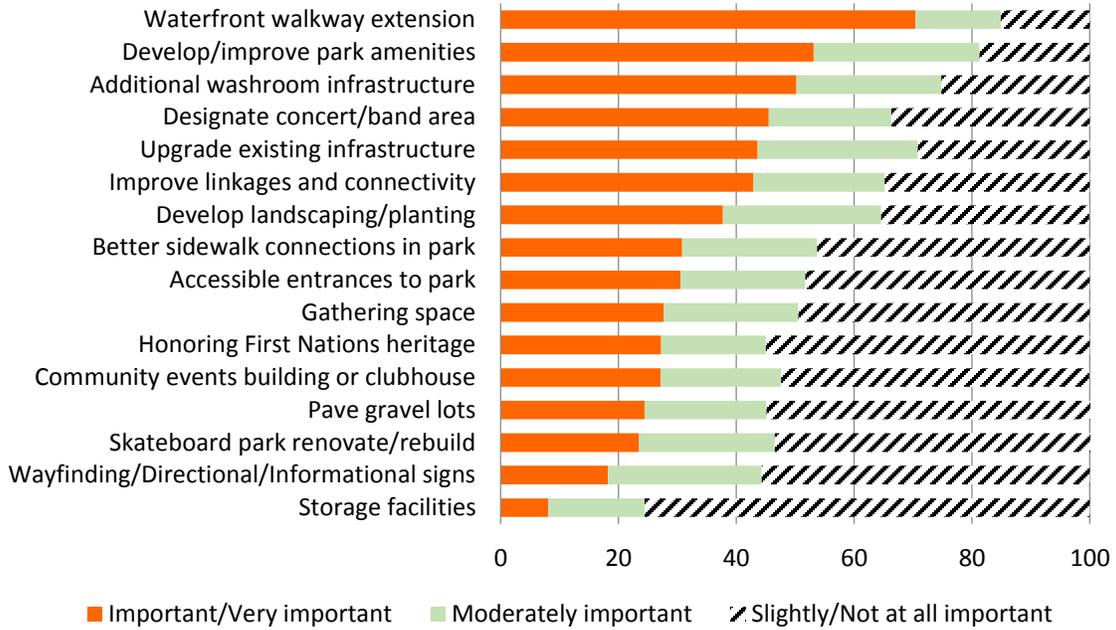
## September Open House - TBD

### 5.3 Combined Survey Results

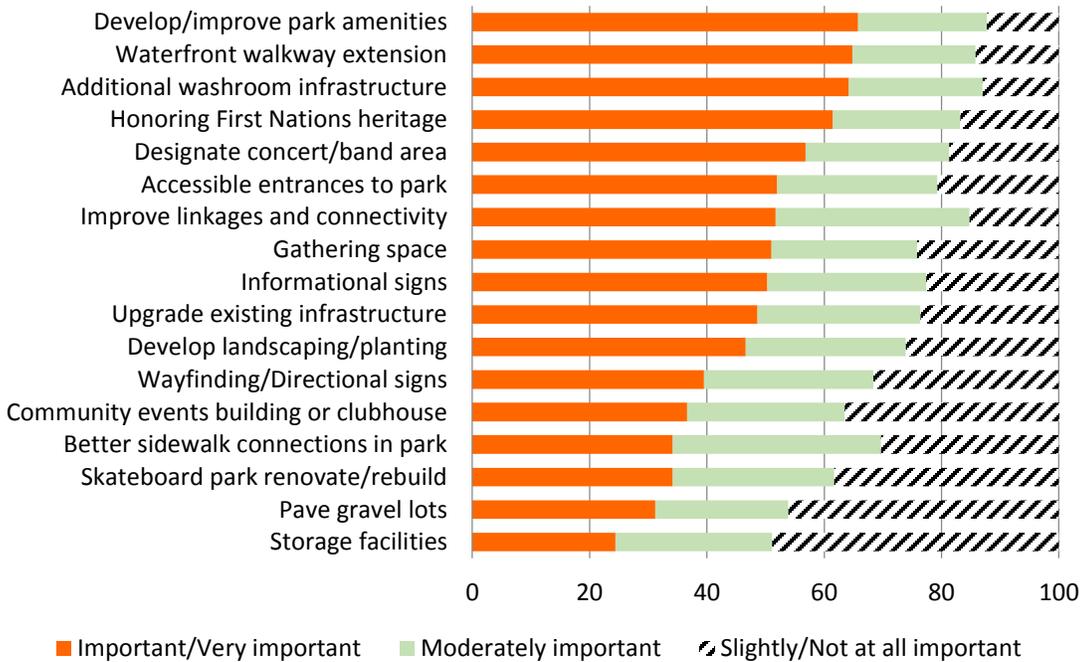
- **Park Usage:** The results from both surveys suggest that the Community Park is a hub for both residents and tourists and is frequented throughout the year. The top three reasons the tourist survey respondents visited Parksville were for festivals, relaxation, and the Community Park (in that order). The top four activities for residents using the park for were walking or hiking, relaxing, enjoying nature, and events/festivals, whereas the top four activities for tourists were beach or swimming, relaxing, events/festivals, walking or hiking. The top event attended by both groups was the Quality Foods Sand Sculpting Competition and Exhibition, followed by Canada Day for resident and KiteFest for tourist respondents.
- **Transportation:** Resident and tourist respondents alike both stated private cars as their method of getting to the park (83% of resident and 83.3% of tourist respondents), though neither group indicated parking as a significant barrier to visiting the park.
- **Priorities for the Next Twenty Years:** In both surveys, residents and tourists were asked a series of questions about what they think the City should focus on in the next twenty year development of the park. The “waterfront walkway extension” ranked highest for residents, closely followed by “developing and improving park amenities” which was the top priority for non-residents. “Additional washroom infrastructure” ranked third for both groups of respondents. Visitors ranked honouring First Nations heritage as a higher priority than residents. Both groups also scored improving linkages and connectivity highly. Wayfinding and directional signage was the second to last priority for residents, although it ranked slightly higher for visitors. Paving existing gravel parking lots was a low priority for both groups as well as storage facilities which ranked last.

*Figure 3: Resident Survey - Priorities*

## Resident Survey - Priorities for the next 20 years



## Tourist Survey - Priorities for the next 20 years





# Future of the Community Park



## Section 6

## 6. Future of the Community Park

### 6.1 Expected Trends in Parks and Trail Use

The demographics of Parksville are currently changing, and so are the demographics of park users. Most organizations and user groups participating in the consultation process reported growth in participation in events and organized sports. This indicates a growing need for more facilities to accommodate the increased demand. The Parksville Beach Festival Society also noted an increase in event attendance over the past few years. Additionally, the consultation results suggested park users would support more festivals, indicating positive feelings toward current events and event expansion in the future.

With an increasing number of tourists, there will be an increased demand for space and facilities in the Community Park, including washrooms and food services. Many respondents also suggested new activities they would like to see in the park and the prevalence of new sports coming to the park, including increasingly popular pickleball and walking soccer.

Most of the participants in the resident and tourist surveys stated driving as their means of transportation to the park but did not express a great need to increase parking capacity. Many in both surveys suggested they would be inclined to get to the park by means other than car if there were more options available to them. Currently, 24% of residents expressed overcrowding as a barrier to park use while 8% of tourists expressed overcrowding as an issue. Although this does not appear to be significant deterrent at present, as park use increases, satisfaction regarding the crowdedness of the park may change and the dynamics between residents and visitors should be reconsidered to reduce conflict.

### 6.2 Guiding Principles

Five Guiding Principles were developed for the Community Park Master Plan. The Guiding Principles reflect the priorities identified through the consultation process and are the foundation of the Action Plan. The Guiding Principles are:

1. **Celebrate** the unique culture and heritage of the Parksville community
2. **Create** a more accessible park for everyone
3. **Support** sustainable infrastructure use and maintenance
4. **Protect** the natural environment and waterfront
5. **Encourage** fun and vibrant activities in the Community Park

### 6.3 A Vision for the Community Park

In twenty years, the Community Park will continue to be the crown jewel of the City - a place where residents can recreate and take pride in their community and where tourists will travel from all over the world to visit.

With the updated main entrance off Corfield Street North, displaying both the new name for the park and its traditional name in Hul'q'umi'num', those travelling by foot, bicycle, and transit can now enter the park as easily as those in private vehicles. From the main entrance, signs indicate access to a multi-use community facility to the right where the curling rink once stood. Here, one can explore the First Nations interpretive elements as well as book venues for activities and community events. Pedestrians and bicycles can also travel directly north along the road connecting to Arbutus Point, where there is new multi-level interactive seating, washrooms, and water equipment rentals. Visitors can also walk or cycle from the Community Park all the way to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park.

Those participating in organized sports will turn left from the entrance to access the new sports clubhouse beside the sports field, which includes change areas, washrooms, storage, and meeting space for teams. City storage and maintenance facilities can now be found in both the sports clubhouse and community facility, and a new system of user fees ensures the park is able to sustain the infrastructure provided for events, sports, and recreational activities in the park.

Beachgoers will continue clockwise around the oval road, which has connected crosswalks, sidewalks, and a bicycle lane. For those looking to drop off family and beach supplies, there is a five-minute drop-off and pickup zone beside the central gathering square and at several locations near the waterfront walkway. There are also bike racks located in similar locations.

At the gathering square, people can be seen socializing or sitting at one of the many shaded tables while eating from nearby food trucks or enjoying a coffee and muffin from the semi-permanent coffee-stand. Many of the park's younger visitors can be seen enjoying the refurbished splash park and Lions Venture Land Playground, or building sandcastles using the tools provided in several play boxes. In the summer, large events will likely be taking place nearby, such as beach volleyball tournaments, and a sand sculpting competition. In the shoulder seasons, one can enjoy local talent, including musicians and local theatre, performing in the gazebo. All these event locations and park amenities can be found in the community park guide and on the wayfinding map located in the gathering space.

Walking along the waterfront is where one can relax and enjoy the natural draw of the coast. Parking for those with decreased mobility is located near the walkway, and there is now access

to the water via a ramp and series of mats across the sand for those using wheelchairs or walkers. Along the waterfront walkway, visitors can learn about the ecological, historical, and cultural significance of the area through interpretive signage, including the history of First Nations settlement, the Mount Arrowsmith UNESCO Biosphere Region, and the Parksville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area. At certain times, buskers can be found performing at locations along the walk, and during others, one can explore the various temporary art installations in the park.



# Action Plan for the Community Park



## Section 7

## 7. Action Plan for the Community Park

The Action Plan provides a detailed breakdown of all sixty recommendations presented in the short, medium, and long-term concepts for the Community Park. The recommendations are organized into the five Guiding Principles with an indication of their estimated timeframe. Each is then ranked by financial cost to the City.

S – Short-term – 5 years

\$ - Operational Cost (\$1-4,999)

M – Medium-term – 10 years

\$\$ - Minor Capital Cost (\$5,000-\$14,999)

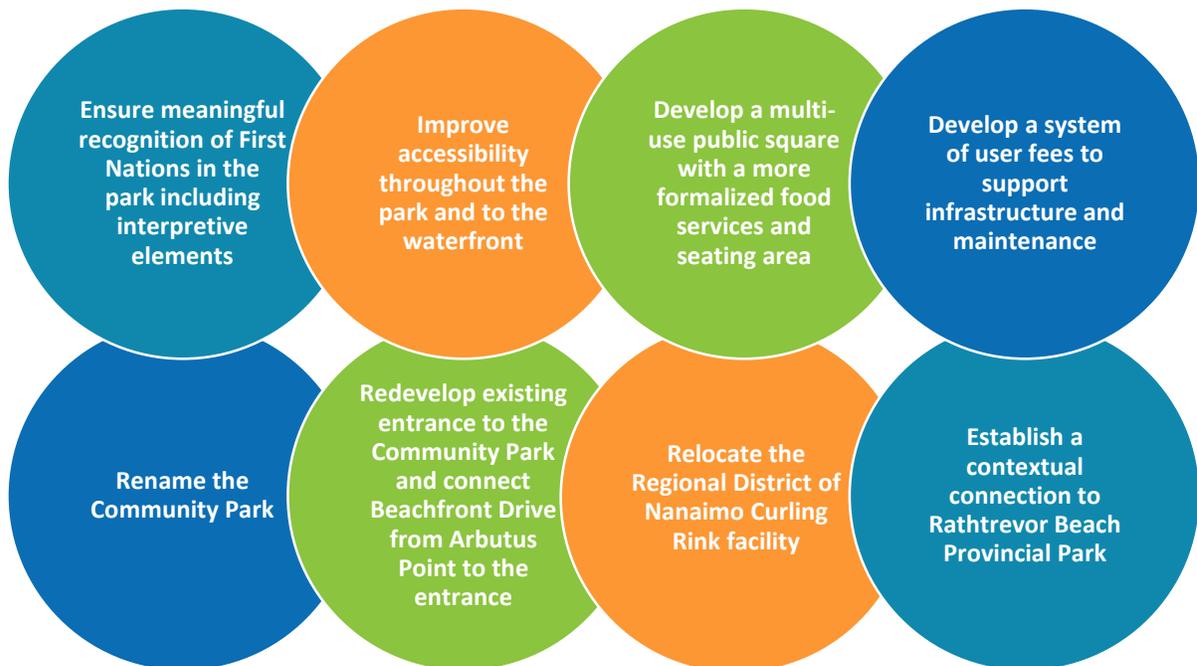
L – Long-term – 20 years

\$\$\$ - Major Capital Cost (\$15,000 +)

O – Ongoing

### 7.1 Priority Recommendations

The eight priority recommendations for the Community Park are to:



## 7.2 Celebrate the unique culture and heritage of the Parksville community

The celebration of Parksville’s culture and heritage was a recurring theme through the consultation process. This includes maintaining and enhancing the sense of place and character of the park loved by the community. The recommendations included in this section focus on honouring the past, developing awareness of the area’s natural, international, and historical significance, and in building community pride. The recommendations in this section have been further categorized into the following areas:

- (1) Meaningful Recognition of First Nations**
- (2) Rename the Community Park**
- (3) Park Signage and Memorials**
- (4) Community Gathering Space**
- (5) Art and Music**

### 7.2.1 Meaningful Recognition of First Nations

The City of Parksville is located within the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples who have lived in the region for thousands of years. Currently, there is no acknowledgment of First Nations in the Community Park. There are many opportunities for creating tangible projects on history, culture, and values in the park.

**Goal:** To collaborate with local First Nations to provide meaningful recognition of traditional territory, First Nations’ values, and culture in the Community Park.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1. Collaborate with local First Nations to develop appropriate signage to acknowledge the park is within Coast Salish traditional territory.	S	\$\$
2. Collaborate with Snaw-Naw-As First Nation on the development of interpretive elements in the Community Park	L	\$\$\$

### 7.2.2 Rename the Community Park

Throughout the consultation process it was noted most residents, visitors, staff, and students referred to the Community Park by different names or with the use of additional qualifiers, such as “the park with the sand sculptures” or “the Parksville beach”. In addition to this, there was frequently confusion surrounding which “Community Park” was being discussed. Renaming or branding the park would help to strengthen the Community Park’s role as the heart of the community.

**Goal:** To re-brand the Community Park by giving it a name that speaks to its significance in the City.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
3. (a) Change the official name of the park to the “Parksville Community Park”  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> (b) Initiate a renaming process for the park to select a name that is meaningful to the community.	S	\$

### 7.2.3 Park Signage and Memorials

Wayfinding and informational signage allows people to move easily throughout the different destinations and features within the park. Educational signage provides background and context of the park which contributes to its “sense of place” or character. The City has recently updated signage in the park to improve user experience. The new signs are well-designed, informative, and discrete and do not detract from the visual park experience.

The Community Park is at maximum capacity for its memorial plaque program, which includes dedications on benches and trees throughout the park. As the program consumes a large amount of staff resources to maintain and provides only a temporary way to remember loved ones (the bench memorials expire after five years and must be renewed or removed). It is recommended the City move away from this model.

**Goals:**

- To increase signage about the natural and cultural heritage of the Community Park
- To streamline wayfinding systems to ensure that the park does not become over-signed
- To discontinue the memorial plaques program

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
4. Ensure all signage is consistent with the City signage standards and branding for the Community Park.	O	-
5. Develop additional educational signage on history, culture, and natural heritage.	S	\$
6. Develop tasteful digital signage/boards on which to post information about upcoming events in the park and a current tide chart.	S	\$
7. Phase out the existing memorial plaque program, while ensuring current memorials are left for the remainder of their term.	S	\$
8. Replace the phased out memorial plaque program with a park project sponsorship/donations program, to which donors to specific projects can have their name displayed near the project.	S	\$
9. Display a Community Park wayfinding map in the proposed gathering space to provide information on connectivity and directions. Install smaller maps at each end of the waterfront walkway.	M	\$

### 7.2.4 Community Gathering Space

Through in-park observations, discussions with staff, and community feedback, it was determined there is a need for a central gathering space at the Community Park to serve as the focal point for activity in the park. Ideally, this location would include an open space, food services, an established eating area with seating, and be in proximity to washroom facilities. The City has already begun the conceptualization for the design of such a space.

From the consultation, it was noted people appreciated the food services in the park and many would support additional food services. One of the most common requests was for a year-round coffee shop, where park visitors had a place to sit, socialize, snack and caffeinate.

**Goal:** To create a well-designed central gathering space at the Community Park adjacent to the existing washroom facilities and the children’s playground.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Cost</b>
10. Evaluate demand of existing food trucks and schedule additional trucks for peak times.	M	\$
11. Establish a semi-permanent coffee stand at the gathering space.	M	\$\$
12. Develop interactive seating features and small second gathering space at Arbutus Point.	M	\$\$
13. Develop a public gathering and eating space with moveable tables, chairs, umbrellas features, landscaping, garbage and recycling facilities near existing washroom structure. Include partially hardscaped area with capacity to host multiple food trucks at one time.	M	\$\$\$

### 7.2.5 Art and Music

The Community Park is alive with music and art throughout the summer months. The recommendations in this section seek to further showcase local artists throughout all seasons and to animate existing spaces throughout the year.

**Goal:** To develop programming to integrate more local talent, art, and cultural activities in the park.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Cost</b>
14. Repaint the labyrinth at Arbutus Point.	S	\$
15. Develop temporary art installations or galleries program to feature local artists.	M	\$
16. Develop busking policy for the park to allow buskers at specific points along the walkway at certain times.	M	\$
17. Expand the use of the gazebo as a year-round performance space (for music, art, and theatre) with the development of temporary and/or permanent seating such as bleachers or covered seating facing the water.	M	\$\$

## 7.3 Create a more accessible park for everyone

One of the goals of the Community Park Master Plan is to recommend and provide greater accessibility for every park user. Residents and tourists, regardless of disabilities or special needs, should be able to access and benefit from the infrastructure offered in the Community Park. The park should also be accessible to all modes of transportation and universally designed for people of all ages.

The results from the public consultation indicate most respondents currently travel to the park by car. The Official Community Plan provides goals for increasing active transportation opportunities in the parks and trails system as well as throughout Parksville.

The recommendations in this section have been further categorized into the following areas:

- (1) Parks Entrances and Exits**
- (2) Alternative Transportation**
- (3) Internal Connectivity**
- (4) Universally Designed Infrastructure**
- (5) Waterfront Walkway**

### *7.3.1 Parks Entrances and Exits*

There is currently one entrance to the Community Park for all vehicular traffic via Corfield Street North. There are three exits, one behind the curling rink connecting to Corfield Street North, one at the park entrance, and one to the south on Beachside Drive by the sports field. The main pedestrian connections are the stairs by the southern exit, and the boardwalk connection from MacMillan Street, although the stairs are inaccessible by those with limited mobility or strollers.

**Goal:** To redevelop the main entrances to the Community Park, in order to facilitate better circulation in and out of the park for all modes of transportation.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
18. Create a contextual link from the Community Park to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park, which will eventually connect to proposed pedestrian bridge and trail to Shelly Road. This is to be explored further in the Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan.	S	\$\$
19. Redevelop the Community Park main entrance off Corfield Street North. Improvements should tie to the improvements being made to Corfield Street North, including bike lanes and the ability for a bus to turn into the park.	M	\$\$
20. Develop an accessible pedestrian entrance to the Community Park. The pedestrian entrance should easily connect to a lighted crosswalk across Highway 19A.	M-L	\$\$\$

### 7.3.2 Alternative Transportation

The alternative transportation recommendations focus on supporting different ways for people to get to the Community Park than by private motor vehicle. This includes public transit and other opportunities which align with priorities in the Official Community Plan.

**Goal:** To improve park connections to and from surrounding neighborhoods and the downtown through alternative methods of transportation.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
21. Use recommendations from the Traffic and Parking Study to consider adding designated five minute drop off/pickup areas near high traffic areas.	S	\$
22. Work with RDN Transit to incorporate a transit stop in the Community Park once improvements have been made to the main entrance. The proposed route would be from Corfield Street North into the park and exiting onto Highway 19A.	M	\$\$

### 7.3.3 Internal Connectivity

A well-designed mobility system with good internal connectivity will allow park users to easily move in and around the Community Park. With some improvements on the existing connectivity system, the Community Park will offer better mobility for every user of the park. Through a site analysis and conversations with park users, several areas were highlighted as

needing additional pathways or infrastructure to enable people to move easily from parking areas to destinations within the park.

**Goal:** To improve and strengthen connections through the park for cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
23. Paint crosswalks at intersections and high use pedestrian areas such as around the existing food trucks.	S	\$
24. Create a small section of accessible parking and loading area at the southern section of Beachfront Drive near the picnic shelter with a curb cut. Connect a path from the parking to the picnic shelter.	S	\$\$
25. Create an annual budget item for construction and repair of internal pedestrian paths and sidewalks in the Community Park. Construct sidewalks along the outside edge of the oval road (in front of the parking spaces near the playground) and connect existing dead end paths.	S	\$\$
26. Construct a multi-use path from the current gravel parking lot along the beach volleyball area to the gathering space.	M	\$\$
27. Add bike racks to the park. These can be incorporated as creative sculptures.	M	\$\$
28. Make the oval road in the park one-way and add a bike lane that continues along Beachfront Drive.	L	\$\$
29. Construct a permanent one-way road connecting the northernmost end of Beachfront Drive through the existing gravel parking lot to the eastern exit beside the curling rink. Include a sidewalk, designated bike path, trees, and street parking to create a complete street.	L	\$\$\$

### 7.3.4 Universally Designed Infrastructure

Creating an environment which can be used by all people, regardless of age, size or ability is one of the main objectives of the City of Parksville. Given the wide diversity of the population, it is recommended facilities and infrastructure be built to be used and enjoyed by everyone.

**Goal:** To incorporate universal design infrastructure in the Community Park to ensure access for all.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
30. Ensure additional or replacement seating and park infrastructure is universally designed.	O	\$\$
31. Develop accessible beach/water access for mobility challenged.	M	\$\$

### 7.3.5 Waterfront Walkway

Throughout the consultation process it was observed a majority of residents and visitors go to the Community Park to enjoy the beach and walk along the renown waterfront walkway. The walkway currently extends beyond the northwest corner of the park all the way to the gazebo at McMillan Street. It is made up of a paved section and wooden boardwalk section.

A main priority identified by the public through the consultation process was for the City to consider extending the waterfront walkway on either side of the Community Park. Work is currently underway to develop a connection between the Community Park and Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park. Additional feasibility assessment and priorities for an extension will be addressed in the forthcoming 2018 Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan.

Through assessment and feedback from the public, it was determined there is some need for improvements to the existing boardwalk.

**Goal:** To upgrade the existing boardwalk to improve safety and encourage multi-modal use.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
32. Install bump-outs on the boardwalk, using a similar design as film crews constructed in the park for market stalls, small performance venues, and covered seating areas.	M	\$\$
33. Consider additional lighting options to illuminate the waterfront walkway after dark.	M	\$\$

## 7.4 Support Sustainable Infrastructure Use and Maintenance

In order to ensure the park remains in the same or greater condition for generations to come, care must be taken to ensure park infrastructure can be sustainably maintained over time. The recommendations included in this section focus on the built infrastructure of the park, including sports facilities, buildings, and landscaping in the Community Park, all of which require ongoing maintenance by parks staff. This section also addresses the issues of permitting as a source of revenue generation to ensure there is sufficient funding to support the future maintenance costs in the park. The recommendations in this section have been further categorized into the following areas:

- (1) Curling Rink**
- (2) Sports and Recreation Facilities**
- (3) Fees and Permitting**
- (4) Washrooms**
- (5) Parking Lots**

### 7.4.1 Curling Rink

The curling rink in the Community Park is currently owned by the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and leased to the Parksville Curling Club. The RDN and the Parksville Curling Club continue to maintain the facilities. The curling rink provides recreation services and a facility for youth, adults, and seniors. The club continues to grow its memberships and acts as a host to local and provincial events.

Recent research for the District 69 (Oceanside) Recreation Services Master Plan was conducted and determined new or enhanced curling facilities would be needed in the future to compensate for the growing number of members. In 2014, the RDN conducted a building assessment to confirm the integrity and life expectancy of the curling rink. The study found approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000 was required over the next three to five years to maintain the basic functions of the facility. Considering the growing age of the curling rink and increase in memberships of the Parksville Curling Club, it is recommended a plan for a new facility should begin to be developed and housed outside of the Community Park.

**Goal:** To remove the curling rink from the Community Park once a new facility has been constructed.

<b>Actions:</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Cost</b>
34. Work with the RDN to relocate curling facilities to new facility in Parksville outside of the Community Park and consider a replacement use for that space.	L	\$\$\$

### 7.4.2 Sports and Recreation Facilities

The sports facilities located in the Community Park are highly subscribed throughout the year for activities such as slow-pitch, lacrosse, walking, soccer, tennis, pickleball, and much more. Sports teams appreciate the outdoor nature of the facilities and their easy access within the park. Due to the growing number of user groups using the sports fields of the Community Park as their home base, there was an identified need for additional storage and changing facilities.

It is recommended the current sports infrastructure be maintained and the City’s additional sports infrastructure needs are incorporated outside of the Community Park. Other recreational infrastructure, such as the playground and waterpark, which are currently undergoing renewal are not anticipated to require much upgrading until the next master plan.

**Goals:**

- To maintain existing park sports and recreation facilities
- To create additional storage for sports user groups and parks maintenance equipment
- Work with pickleball groups to develop a pickleball specific sports facility outside of the Community Park, potentially in multiple locations

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
35. Resurface the Ventureland playground with rubberized material in sections over time.	O	\$\$\$
36. Renovate the tennis court.	S	\$\$
37. Replace Kin Hut facility with clubhouse to include changing, washroom, storage and meeting facilities.	S	\$\$\$
38. Upgrade the skateboard park, creating a section for younger children and a more advanced section.	M	\$\$\$
39. Construct additional facilities near picnic shelter area to include parks maintenance, publish washrooms and storage.	L	\$\$\$

### 7.4.3 Fees and Permitting

Currently, the City of Parksville does not charge user fees to rent space in the Community Park. In conversation with City officials and feedback from the consultation process it is recommended the City begin collecting fees from users to book space in the park. Fees should be enough to provide the City with revenue to maintain the park but should not be so high as to restrict community events. User groups have mentioned they appreciate the current process for acquiring permits from the City, and wish for this to stay the same.

**Goal:** To develop a fee system for renting park space that provides the City with funding for infrastructure and maintenance costs within the Community Park.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
40. Develop an appropriate user fee system to be associated with permits for renting spaces within the Community Park. This would include the picnic shelter, gazebo, gathering space, sand pits, and sports facilities.	S	\$

### 7.4.4 Washrooms

The Community Park contains one main public washroom facility near the splash park and two smaller facilities, one at the Kin Hut near the sports field, and another near the picnic shelter. There is also a washroom within the curling rink. Each year the City also supplies two portable washrooms at the end of Beachfront Drive. During high peak events, event organizers must provide additional portable washrooms, which quickly reach capacity on busy summer weekends. Additionally there are no dedicated change room facilities in the park.

**Goals:**

- To upgrade existing washroom facilities.
- To provide additional washroom facilities for visitors of the Community Park.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
41. Add a small permanent washroom facility at the end of Beachfront Drive.	L	\$\$\$
42. Upgrade existing washroom facilities near the gathering space.	L	\$\$\$

### 7.4.5 Parking Lots

Parking was flagged as an issue on summer weekends and during special events, as mentioned in the consultation process, but paving the existing gravel parking lots was not high on the list of priorities for park users. The current parking capacity of the Community Park is approximately 500 total paved and unpaved spaces. The gravel overflow area, without designated parking spaces, often cannot support this many vehicles as parking is random and space is wasted.

Over time with improvements to park access via other transportation options, such as a shuttle service, it is recommended the City work to reduce the number of parking spaces located in the park over the long term so there is more space for activities in the park.

**Goal:** To make the existing parking more efficient and reduce impact of cars on the park.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
43. Delineate parking spaces in the gravel parking lot using a combination of concrete barriers (to indicate entrance and exit points) and either chalk, inlaid markers, or pegged wooden dividers to distinguish parking stalls. Indication of lane direction should also be considered to ensure flow in and out of the lot.	S	\$
44. Consider conducting traffic and parking assessment.	S	\$
45. Pave parking lot extension at sports field.	S	\$\$
46. Pave a portion of the large gravel lot nearest to the curling rink. Re-evaluate need for overflow lot in 2037.	L	\$\$

## 7.5 Protect the Natural Environment and Waterfront

Many guests and users of the park indicated they appreciate the natural spaces in the park and would like to see these improved and enhanced. Though the Community Park is not a fully naturalized setting, it is a good intermediary location between the developed landscape and the area’s natural ecosystems. This presents an opportunity to connect people with nature in the park and provide natural education opportunities. The recommendations in this section have been further categorized into the following areas:

- (1) Coastal Management and Erosion Control**
- (2) Landscaping**
- (3) Water Management**
- (4) Waste and Recycling**
- (5) Wildlife Conflicts**

### 7.5.1 Coastal Management and Erosion Control

As indicated by the 2005 Community Park Master Plan and multiple assessments conducted by the City, the shoreline of the park has been eroding over time and is expected to continue to do so with global sea level rise and increasing storm events due to climate change. To preserve the coastline and prevent further erosion of park banks, it is recommended the City continue to take a remediation approach to shoreline management by increasing native vegetation. Native plants root easily, absorb water which is important for maintaining the balance in the ecological system and are cheap to maintain.

In August 2017, the City completed stabilization of the foreshore at Arbutus Point which included some beach filling. The ongoing recommendation is to continue monitoring of the Community Park shoreline, which was last assessed in 2015.

**Goal:** To protect the shoreline and preserve the beach landscape and ecosystem.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
47. Conduct regular shoreline monitoring to develop additional solutions to manage rising sea levels, continued erosion, and increasing severity of storm events.	O	\$\$
48. Planting of native plants and grasses to stabilize the shoreline. Fencing off areas until the vegetation has established and provide temporary educational signage about the remediation.	S	\$

### 7.5.2 Landscaping

In conversations with the public about the park, many people expressed appreciation for the maintenance and care of the park’s landscaping. It is recommended the City maintains the aesthetics and qualities of the park, and continues to enhance this through planting more vegetation in specific areas of the park.

**Goal:** To connect people with nature and provide a clear understanding of the ecosystem and natural environment around the park.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
49. Encourage the use of native vegetation and plantings into landscaping nearest to shoreline, with non-native plantings in more formal areas of the park.	O	\$

### 7.5.3 Water Management

One of the main sustainability goals highlighted in the Official Community Plan is to ensure “City operations are conducted in a manner that seeks to conserve water and energy resources” (City of Parksville, 2013). The use of permeable surfaces should be considered in certain areas of the park to help to reduce stormwater runoff, and greywater recycle systems adopted for City facilities.

The City will be conducting a drainage assessment for the entire park in 2018.

**Goal:**

- To create a drainage plan for the park
- To promote sustainable water use through adopting an integrated water management plan

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
50. Create a drainage plan for the park.	S	\$\$
51. Ensure educational materials are available on innovative elements of drainage plan (bioswales, reuse of grey water)	M	\$\$
52. Use of permeable pavement when possible in new paving and trails not adjacent to the sandy areas of the park.	M	\$\$
53. Implement drainage plan.	L	\$\$\$

### 7.5.4 Waste and Recycling

Recycling is part of environmentally responsible practice by diverting reusable waste from the landfill. There are many garbage containers in the park along main paths and trails, and additional waste facilities are provided during events when there is a larger population of visitors to the park. Each of these garbage containers has been outfitted with a wire basket for collection of returnables from which any citizen or City staff member can collect and return. This has generally proven effective, although more recycling options are recommended around highest use areas of the park.

Some issues with overflow of garbage cans was expressed, as well as littering on the beaches.

**Goal:**

- To create a sustainable waste management plan for the park with targets to reduce waste generated at the park
- To provide additional recycling facilities

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
54. Consider recycling stations at highest traffic areas around the Community Park, including the new gathering space and beside the food trucks. Will require public education and awareness as well as a maintenance plan.	S	\$\$

### 7.5.5 Wildlife Conflicts

The shoreline of the Community Park is an important migration habitat for the Brant geese and other species of waterfowl, and has been designated by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources as part of the Parksville-Qualicum Wildlife Management Area. All dogs are prohibited from the beach areas during the Brant season between March and May. Policies in the park allow for dogs in the rest of the park, but only if they are on leash. The results of the public consultation indicated although there is demand for an additional off leash dog area, locating this within the Community Park was not deemed appropriate.

**Goal:** To mitigate impacts of dogs on wildlife in the park.

Actions:	Timeframe	Cost
55. Provide more temporary signage and outreach/educational activities in the park about the no dogs on beach during bird migration season and work with the Province to provide greater enforcement between March and April.	O	\$

## 7.6 Encourage fun and vibrant activities in the Community Park

Especially throughout the summer months, the Community Park is buzzing with all sorts of vibrant activities and events. This was something residents and visitors treasure about the park, and wish to see continued in all seasons. The recommendations in this section reflect the Parkville community's expressed desire to have more fun and vibrant activities in the Community Park. The recommendations in this section have been further categorized into the following areas:

### (1) Equipment Rentals

### (2) Community Events and Festivals

#### 7.6.1 Equipment Rentals

Throughout the consultation process many people made suggestions about additional recreational activities they wish to see in the park, including the desire for equipment rentals. Current City policy allows for the establishment of a temporary commercial recreational use located at Arbutus Point. Such an establishment was trialed at this location, and was unsuccessful. It is recommended any rentals be located opposite the beach, closer to the gathering space in the park, which sees the most foot traffic.

**Goal:** To provide more opportunities for leisure and recreation through the provision of equipment rentals.

Actions:	Time Frame	Cost
56. Trial small play equipment boxes (similar to 5-2-1-0 boxes) families can unlock with a code to access play items such as sandcastle building buckets, balls, and Frisbees.	S	\$\$
57. Trial of a recreational equipment rentals lease at Arbutus Point after new road and gathering space are completed. Suggested rentals include small non-powered watercrafts such as kayaks and stand up paddle boards, but could be expanded to include roller blades and bikes.	M	\$\$

### 7.6.2 Community Events and Festivals

People from all over the world visit the City of Parksville to participate in events such as the Parksville Beach Festival and the Quality Foods Sand Sculpting Competition and Exhibition, Kitefest, the Shriners Car Show, and KidsFest to name a few. These events provide something for residents and tourists alike, and should be incorporated into the future infrastructure considerations in the park. Most of these events are free to the public or admission is by donation, which goes towards community non-profits and charitable organizations. At this time, none of the revenue generated by the events goes to maintaining City infrastructure or additional services required to support these events. The consultation identified people who did not know what or when events were happening in the park.

The Parksville Beach Festival, which currently takes place in the Community Park has expressed a desire to expand its sand sculpting competition to the international level. This would require additional sculpting space and other additional infrastructure in the park. It has been determined that currently the Community Park does not have the capacity to support this expansion and the City should continue to evaluate options.

#### Goals:

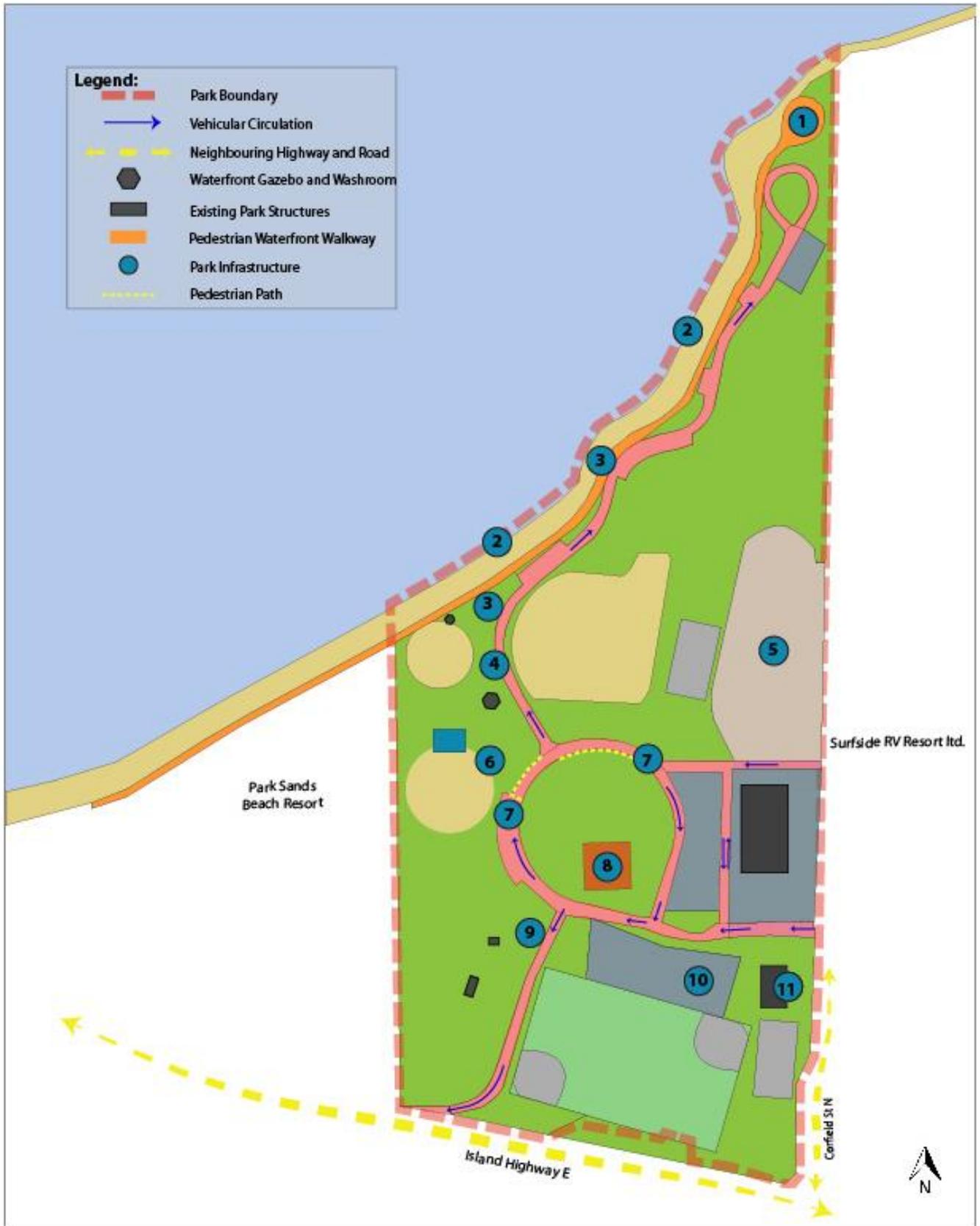
- To continue to support event infrastructure in the park
- To increase communications about events and activities offered in the park.

Actions:	Time Frame	Cost
58. Continue ongoing discussions with Parksville Beach Festival Society to the feasibility of expanding the sand sculpture competition.	O	\$
59. Implement an advisory board to facilitate and coordinate major events in the Community Park that occur during the summer months.	S	\$
60. Create an annual park guide and make it available in online and hard copy formats. The guide should include information about annual events annual events, food trucks, restrictions, and amenities offered in the park.	S	\$\$

## 7.7 Monitoring and Accountability

The 2017 Community Park Master Plan must be reviewed and aligned annually with the capital and operations plan. Every five years, the plan must be reviewed and aligned with the City's capital and infrastructure plan. Future asset management plans should reference the 2017 Community Park Master Plan. The plan should also be reviewed every five years to celebrate the actions achieved and to review the relevance of all outstanding actions.

### 7.7.1 Short-Term Actions (5 Years)



### 7.1.1 Short Term Actions (5 Years)

*Note: numbers below are referenced on the map on the previous page, while the bulleted list are additional items not specifically referenced on the map.*

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY ACTIONS**

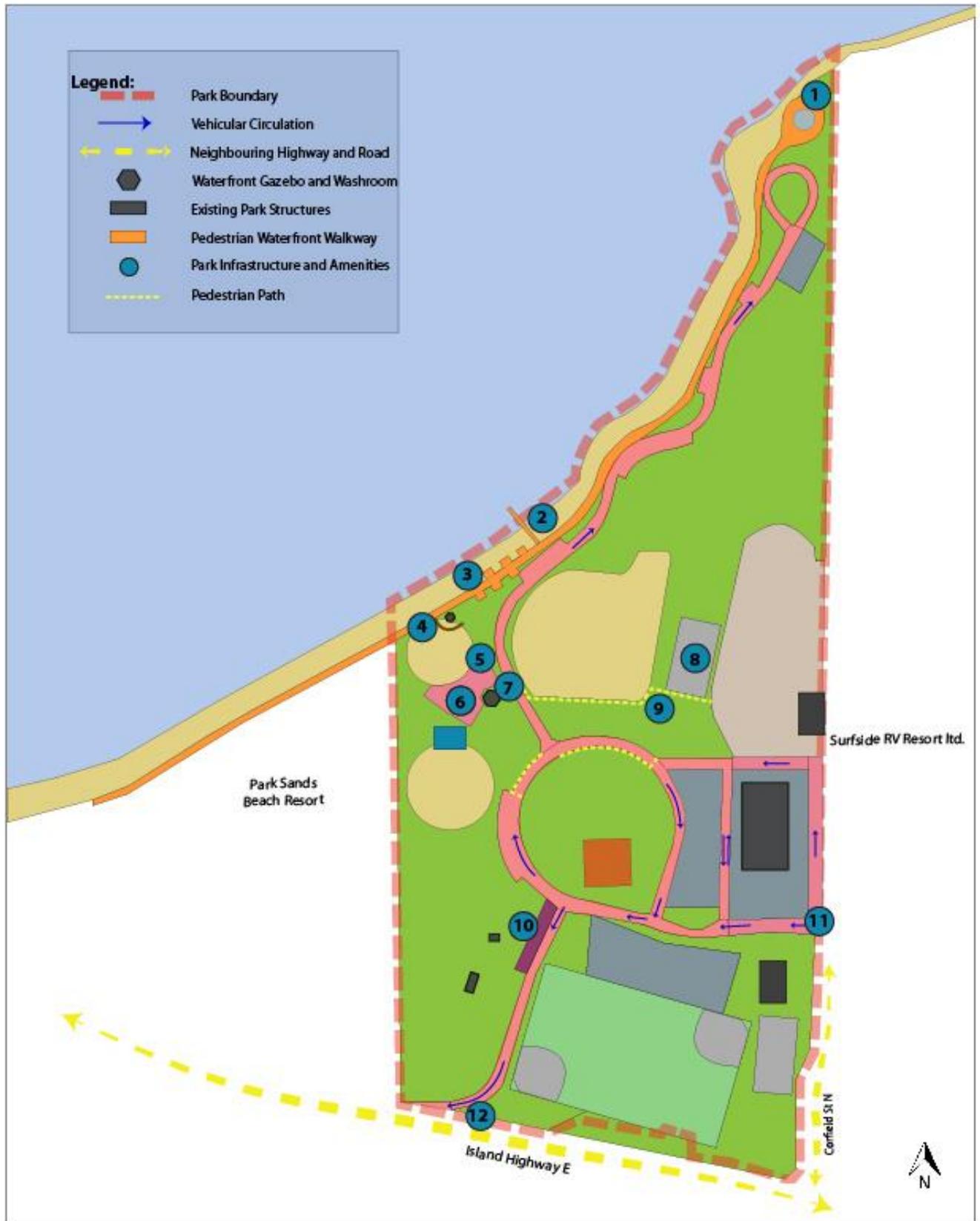
1. Repaint the labyrinth at Arbutus Point
2. Planting of native plants and grasses to stabilize the shoreline
3. Use recommendations from the Traffic and Parking Study to consider adding designated five minute drop off/pickup areas near high traffic areas
4. Paint crosswalks at intersections and high use pedestrian areas such as around existing food trucks
5. Delineate parking spaces in the gravel parking lot
6. Trial small play equipment boxes
7. Construct sidewalks along the outside edge of the oval road and connect existing dead end paths
8. Renovate the tennis court
9. Create a small section of accessible parking and loading area at the southern section of Beachfront Drive near the picnic shelter with a curb cut, connect a path from parking to the picnic shelter
10. Pave parking lot extension at the sports field
11. Replace Kin Hut facility with clubhouse to include changing, washroom, storage, and meeting facilities

#### **GENERAL PARK ACTIONS**

- Ensure all signage is consistent with the city signage standards and branding for the Community Park
- Ensure additional or replacement seating and park infrastructure is universally designed
- Resurface Ventureland playground with rubberized material in sections over time
- Conduct regular shoreline monitoring to develop additional solutions to manage rising sea levels, continued erosion, and increasing severity of storm events
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and plantings into landscaping nearest to

- shoreline, with non-native plantings in more formal areas of the park
- Provide more temporary signage and outreach/educational activities in park about the no dogs on beach during bird migration season and work with the province to provide greater enforcement between March and April
- Continue ongoing discussions with Parksville Beach Festival Society to the feasibility of expanding the sand sculpture competition
- Change the official name of the park
- Develop additional educational signage and develop tasteful signage/boards on which to post information about upcoming events in the park and a current tide chart
- Phase out existing memorial plaque program
- Create a contextual link from the Community Park to Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park
- Create an annual budget item for construction and repair of internal pedestrian paths and sidewalks in the Community Park
- Develop a user fee system to be associated with permits for renting spaces within the Community Park
- Consider conducting a traffic and parking assessment
- Create a drainage plan for the park
- Consider recycling stations at highest traffic areas around the park
- Form an advisory board to facilitate and coordinate major community events in the Community Park during the summer
- Create an annual park guide to be made available online and in hard copy which includes information about annual events, food trucks, restrictions, and amenities offered at the park

### 7.7.2 Medium-Term Actions (10 Years)



### 7.1.2 Medium Term Actions (10 Years)

*Note: numbers below are referenced on the map on the previous page, while the bulleted list are additional items not specifically referenced on the map.*

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY ACTIONS**

1. Develop interactive seating features and small second gathering space at Arbutus Point
2. Develop accessible beach/water access for mobility challenged
3. Install bump-outs on the boardwalk
4. Expand the use of the gazebo as a year round performance space with the development of seating facing the water
5. Establish a semi-permanent coffee stand at the gathering space
6. Develop a public gathering and eating space with moveable chairs, tables, umbrellas, landscaping, garbage, and recycling facilities near existing washroom structure
7. Display a Community Park wayfinding map in the proposed gathering space to provide information on connectivity and directions, install smaller maps at each end of the waterfront walkway
8. Upgrade the skateboard park
9. Construct a multi-use path from the current gravel parking lot along the beach volleyball area to the gathering space
10. Work with RDN Transit to incorporate a transit stop in the Community Park once improvements have been made to the main entrance
11. Redevelop the Community Park main entrance off Corfield Street North
12. Develop an accessible pedestrian entrance to the Community Park along Highway 19A

#### **GENERAL PARK ACTIONS**

- Ensure all signage is consistent with the city signage standards and branding for the Community Park

- Ensure additional or replacement seating and park infrastructure is universally designed
- Resurface Ventureland playground with rubberized material in sections over time
- Conduct regular shoreline monitoring to develop additional solutions to manage rising sea levels, continued erosion, and increasing severity of storm events
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and plantings into landscaping nearest to shoreline, with non-native plantings in more formal areas of the park
- Provide more temporary signage and outreach/educational activities in park about the no dogs on beach during bird migration season and work with the province to provide greater enforcement between March and April
- Continue ongoing discussions with Parksville Beach Festival Society to the feasibility of expanding the sand sculpture competition
- Evaluate demand of existing food trucks and schedule additional trucks at peak times
- Develop temporary art installations or galleries program to feature local artists
- Develop a busking policy for the park
- Add bike racks to the park
- Consider additional lighting options to illuminate the waterfront walkway after dark
- Ensure educational materials are available in innovative elements of the drainage plan
- Use of permeable pavement when possible in new paving and trails not adjacent to the sandy areas of the park
- Trial of recreational equipment rentals

### 7.7.3 Long-Term Actions (20 Years)



### 7.1.3 Long Term Actions (20 Years)

*Note: numbers below are referenced on the map on the previous page, while the bulleted list are additional items not specifically referenced on the map.*

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND AMENITY ACTIONS**

1. Add a small permanent washroom facility at the end of Beachfront Drive
2. Construct a permanent one-way road connecting the northernmost end of Beachfront Drive through the existing gravel parking lot to the eastern exit beside the curling rink
3. Upgrade existing washroom facilities near the gathering space
4. Pave a portion of the large gravel lot nearest to the curling rink. Re-evaluate the need for overflow lot in 2037
5. Make the oval road in the park one-way and add a bike lane that continues along Beachfront Drive
6. Construct additional facilities near picnic shelter area to include parks maintenance, public washrooms, and storage
7. Develop an accessible pedestrian entrance to the Community Park along Highway 19A

#### **GENERAL PARK ACTIONS**

- Ensure all signage is consistent with the city signage standards and branding for the Community Park
- Ensure additional or replacement seating and park infrastructure is universally designed
- Resurface Ventureland playground with rubberized material in sections over time
- Conduct regular shoreline monitoring to develop additional solutions to manage rising sea levels, continued erosion, and increasing severity of storm events
- Encourage the use of native vegetation and plantings into landscaping nearest to shoreline, with non-native plantings in more formal areas of the park
- Provide more temporary signage and outreach/educational activities in park about the no dogs on beach during bird migration season and work with the province to provide greater enforcement between March and April
- Continue ongoing discussions with Parksville Beach Festival Society to the feasibility of expanding the sand sculpture competition
- Work with the RDN to relocate curling facilities to a new facility in Parksville outside of the Community Park and consider a replacement use for that space
- Implement a drainage plan

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Cover, title photos, and unreferenced photos throughout from City of Parksville.

## 9. Appendix

9.1 APPENDIX A: Full Consultation Summary

9.2 APPENDIX B: Community Gathering Space Concept