

# It's Your City!

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## Residents to Inform Multiplex Next Steps

In fall 2020, WSP Canada completed an initial environmental assessment of the proposed Despard site and submitted a report to Council recommending further study, highlighting areas where more in-depth environmental assessment should be done.

Council was advised on July 5 by WSP that preliminary assessments completed in June identified potential valuable ecological communities at the proposed site which may present constraints to the proposed development. Council approved the following:

- THAT WSP finalize their current ecological assessment of the Despard site.
- THAT no further studies in relation to the development of the Despard site be initiated and that WSP be retained as the technical consultant and the balance of the budget reallocated to land analysis and site condition assessments for alternative potential sites.
- THAT staff be directed to move forward with the planned public engagement to commence later this month and into the fall.

Council has stated decisions would be based on the studies and before asking residents to consider the additional costs of acquiring land, wished to investigate site conditions on land already owned. Despard was chosen by Council as the preferred site for several reasons: area size and buffering from nearby homes; no additional cost to purchase land; proximity to existing services; walkability from large portion of the population and compatible land use regulations. Council agreed they would not pursue any action that would cause irreparable damage to the area. It is important to note this location is not the same as the identified wetland in the park property to the northeast of the proposed



location but represents a different valuable feature on fee simple lands not currently designated as park.

Along with the services of a public engagement consultant, the cost of the site condition assessments were allocated from a provincial COVID grant. An assessment of the Despard site is extremely valuable as the City looks to manage and protect this site in the future. WSP will complete the assessment and following peer review, present the final report to Council. Council appointed six members to an advisory technical working group for the project and extended the application process until July 30.

A robust public engagement through summer/ fall will begin to discuss the community's input on size, location and features for a pool and multiplex. HDR will be asking residents questions such as:

- Do you want a pool in Parksville? If so, what features/ amenities should be included?
- What siting conditions are important - e.g. walkability, access to transit, proximity to other amenities, servicing, etc?
- Would you be willing to see taxes increase to support this project and how much would be acceptable? Would you support borrowing to build the facility?

**Do you have an interest in this project? Want to know about upcoming public consultation activities?**

Stay involved over the next several months by signing up for newsletters – email [HDR@parksville.ca](mailto:HDR@parksville.ca).

## BC's Restart Plan – Step 3

Should case counts and hospitalization rates continue to decline, Step 4 could come into effect as early as September 7. Step 3:

- BC state of emergency and public health emergency lifted.
- Return to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings.
- Increased capacity for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, with safety plans.
- No group limit for indoor/outdoor dining; liquor services restrictions lifted; nightclubs and casinos can operate with capacity limits and safety plans.
- Limited indoor spectators at events and outdoor events up to 5,000 or 50% capacity whichever is greater.
- Although masks are no longer mandatory, when visiting City Hall, please continue to wear a mask and respect distance.

## Grant in-aid Program

Info about the City's fall grant-in-aid applications is now available; deadline is 4 pm on September 1. Non-profit organizations in the arts, cultural, recreational or social services fields are eligible to apply. Information on the program, policy, instructions and application may be obtained from City Hall or from the website [\[Mayor and Council/Grant-in-Aid Applications\]](#).

## CITY SERVICES

### Parksville Campfire Ban

Until further notice, all open burning, including campfires, beach fires and fireworks, are prohibited in the Parksville Fire Protection Area to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. This ban applies to open fires of any size, campfires, fireworks, sky lanterns, tiki torches, and burning barrels and does not apply to cooking stoves using gas, propane or briquettes, or to portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating using briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, that are not capable of producing a flame longer than 15 centimetres.



To report a fire contact:

- Fire emergency (threat to lives/property) 911
- Open fire Parksville Fire Protection Area 250 248-3242
- Beach fires (RAPP line) 1877 952-7277
- Wildfire 1 800 663-5555 or \*5555 on a mobile

### Attending Council Meetings

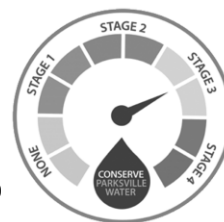
Please note, there are no Council meetings in August. Starting with the September 8 meeting, the public is welcome to attend in person. Meetings are held in the Forum, Parksville Civic and Technology Centre starting at 3 pm. Meetings are also webstreamed live and archived from our website.

### Stage 3 Watering Critical to Demand

We are requesting residents to voluntarily reduce water consumption. It's been hot and dry with no significant rainfall expected anytime soon. Adhering to watering restrictions as well as proactive water conservation is critical to maintain water supply for fire protection, essential household use and environmental flows in streams.

We continue to monitor demands daily and appreciate the efforts of residents to voluntarily conserve.

Stage 3 restrictions, the same as stage 2, enable residents to choose where they wish to cut back. Residents are asked to voluntarily conserve discretionary outdoor water use such as the watering of lawns. Should we not see reductions in consumption, it will be necessary to implement stage 4, a comprehensive watering ban which prohibits all outdoor watering, filling of pools, and washing of vehicles. [\[Quicklinks/Water\]](#)



### City Dates

July 19	Council Meeting
August 2	BC Day (offices closed)
September 6	Labour Day (offices closed)
September 8	Council Meeting
September 20	Council Meeting

### How to Reach Council

MAYOR		<a href="mailto:council@parksville.ca">council@parksville.ca</a> 100 Jensen Avenue East PO Box 1390 Parksville V9P 2H3
Ed Mayne	250 954-4661	
COUNCILLORS		
Mark Chandler	250 951-6651	
Adam Fras	250 228-3727	
Al Greir	250 248-1285	
Doug O'Brien	250 954-2327	<a href="http://parksville.ca">parksville.ca</a> Comments welcome. 250 954-3073 <a href="mailto:info@parksville.ca">info@parksville.ca</a>
Teresa Patterson	250 954-9488	
Marilyn Wilson	250 954-3060	

