

VIU Students Take on Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan

The City of Parksville is pleased to begin a new project with Vancouver Island University. In December, Parksville Council approved City staff to work with Vancouver Island University, Master of Community Planning Program and Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRRI) to undertake a consultation strategy and development of a comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan.

VIU students working with MABRRRI in partnership with the City of Parksville will engage residents about their vision and priorities for parks and open spaces within the City. Similar to the Community Park Master Plan project completed in December, public engagement will form an integral part of this new master plan.

Based on the successful work recently completed by Vancouver Island University on the Community Park Master Plan, staff has confidence in the ability of the students to deliver a comprehensive Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Master Plan which includes an extensive analysis and asset inventory of all City park spaces, detailed GIS mapping, a qualitative assessment of park spaces, evaluation of parks and trails connectivity and a needs/gap analysis. This project will update the 2005 Parks and Trails Master Plan and it is expected a draft will be presented to Council in early 2019.

Public engagement will start in March with another “Parks on the Street” event. Similar to the successful kickoff event for the Community Park Master Plan in 2017, students will ask citizens what they would like to see for the future of their City parks. “Parks on the Street” will take place on Saturday, March 17 from 10 am to 3 pm hosted at several locations across the City. Additional information about this event will be made available on the City’s website.

Established in 2014 at Vancouver Island University, the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute (MABRRRI) mission is to advance a program of inquiry that involves regional stakeholders in meaningful explorations of issues of local relevance. By harnessing the knowledge of the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region community and the interdisciplinary strengths of students and faculty at Vancouver Island University, MABRRRI is a centre for collaborative research, innovation, and knowledge sharing that elevates the relationship between people and nature on Vancouver Island and within MABR.

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For more information:

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