

PARKLAND PLACEMENT, ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT

DECEMBER 9, 2024

BACKGROUND

At the September 26, 2024, Special Committee of the Whole, the Mayor recommended a new initiative that would help Council to understand the process in choosing where parks are placed, how land is acquired, and whether there is a plan in place to manage parkland in the Township and for policy guidance.

Increased development in the Township of Esquimalt is placing added pressure on parks. In addition, there is an inequitable distribution of park space in the Township with some neighborhoods having abundant access to parks and other areas having limited access to parks. Park space contributes to the health and wellness of our community; however, not all neighborhoods have access to high quality park space. To provide a more equitable distribution of park space, Council is looking for ways to provide more park space in areas currently under-served by parks.

Council is also seeking ways to better assess any park-related amenities proposed by developers during land use application processes.

PROJECT SCOPE

This project would involve the following activities:

- Map existing park locations include key attributes (i.e.. Waterfront park)
- Establish baseline service levels (numbers, size, distance, type)
- Identify areas underserved by quality park space
- Compared to best practices in region (how we measure up)
- Complete a SWOT analysis park acquisition process
- Provide information for feedback and direction for public and council
- Provide recommendations for future direction
- Draft strategic park land management plan/policy for councils' consideration

The development of a strategic park land acquisition and management policy will address increased pressure and demand on parks due to development in our community as well as the unequal distribution of park land in the Township. This will ensure park land inventory meets the needs of the residents of Esquimalt now and for future growth.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Deliverables	Including target dates	Who will be responsible
Map existing park locations	TOE staff Q1 (3 months)	Parks Manager Planning Manager
Establish baseline service levels	TOE staff Q1 (3 months)	Parks Manager
Evaluate and compared to best practices in region	Consultant Q2 (3 months)	Consultant
Complete a SWOT analysis park acquisition process	Consultant Q2 (3 months)	Consultant
Provide information for feedback and direction for public and council	TOE staff Q3 (3 months)	Park Manager and Director Planning Manager/Director
Provide recommendations for future direction	TOE staff Q4 (3 months)	Park Manager and Director Planning Manager/Director

STAFF IMPACT

Deliverables	Staff/Consultant	Staff Hr./\$\$
Map existing park locations	Parks Manager (lead) /Development Services (support)	10hrs
Establish baseline service levels	Parks Manager	10hrs
Evaluate and compared to best practices in region	Consultant	10hrs
Complete a SWOT analysis park acquisition process	Consultant	24hrs
Provide information for feedback and direction for public and council	Park Manager and Director Planning Manager/Director	10hrs
Provide report with recommendations for future direction of Park Investment	Park Manager and Director Planning Manager/Director	20hrs

STAKEHOLDERS/POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS OR DEPENDENCIES

Stakeholders are

- First Nations
- Federal Government
- Provincial
- CRD
- Environmental groups

PROJECT RISK MANAGEMENT

Archaeology and sensitive eco systems (leverage professional relationships w first nations, biologists and archaeologists)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

\$ 30,000 consultant operating (one-time supplemental request)

\$ 10,000 staff time operating