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# TOWN OF SIDNEY

## REPORT TO COUNCIL

**TO:** Mayor & Council

**FROM:** Tim Tanton, Director of Development Services, Engineering, Parks & Works

**DATE:** January 17, 2018 **FILE:** 6120-02

**SUBJECT:** PARKS MASTER PLAN

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide Council with information on the Parks Master Plan and outline possible next steps.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In 2017 the Town retained Barefoot Planning to facilitate the completion of a Parks Master Plan (PMP). The goal of the PMP is to set out a vision for the future direction of parks and related activities in Sidney. The PMP was developed through a process of broad consultation with the public and various park stakeholders, including the following steps:

- Public Survey (summer 2017): to gather initial ideas.
- Public Ideas Fair (August 22, 2017): to gather input and identify themes.
- Stakeholder Workshop (September 21, 2017): to refine ideas from public.
- Staff Workshop (September 27, 2017): to further refine ideas and begin draft PMP.
- Public Open House (November 8, 2017): to receive feedback on draft PMP.
- PMP revised pursuant to public feedback (December 2017).

### **DISCUSSION:**

The final draft of the PMP is attached to this report, and will be further detailed in a presentation by Barefoot Planning.

The PMP is organized into four Chapters, which are generally described below.

#### Chapter A: Introduction, Process and Consultation

- Project background and context
- Key objectives

#### Chapter B: Parks Inventory and Assessment

- Individual assessment of 28 parks and 17 beach accesses: features, needs, challenges
- Priority improvements identified
- 'Big Ideas' received from consultation
- Visual examples of 'Big Ideas' in other locations

Chapter C: Parks & Natural Areas Management

- Recommendations for improving parks operations and management
- Recommendations for improving Sidney's urban forest
- Priority improvements identified

Chapter D: Implementation Strategy

- Discussion of strategic approach
- Prioritized recommendations
- Phased implementation plan: high, medium and low priority items for short, medium and long term.

The PMP has identified specific capital improvements that can be accomplished in the next 15-20 year period. Further work is also recommended in a number of areas, including detailed planning processes for four large, underutilized parks (Rathdown Park, Brethour Park, Resthaven Park and Reay Creek Park). The 2018 budget process is already underway and will include consideration of one of the recommended capital items: improvement of the West Side Pathway along Highway 17. Other capital items will be included for consideration in future budget years.

Finally, it should be noted that the PMP recognizes and addresses a number of Council resolution "Action Items", that were provided to Council in a summary report on January 8, 2018. Based upon the completion of the PMP, these outstanding items are now complete.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Council endorse the Final Copy of the Parks Master Plan;
2. That Council direct staff to bring forward recommended park capital improvements in future budget years; and
3. That Council direct staff to report back on detailed planning processes for Rathdown Park, Brethour Park, Resthaven Park and Reay Creek Park in 2018.

Respectfully submitted:



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