

2018



Town of Sidney

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Sidney
by the sea



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INTRODUCTION, PROCESS, AND CONSULTATION

A1 Chapter Overview

This chapter reflects the first phase of the project process, which consisted of a baseline inventory of public parks, community and stakeholder consultation, and the development of a project framework. Together, the outcomes formed the platform on which to develop both park-by-park recommendations and high-level guiding directions for the management of Sidney's parks. Inside, you will find...

- » An introduction to the project, including key objectives and the project background;
- » An overview of the project process and a brief summary of the consultation outcomes; and,
- » An description of the project framework, including project goals, values, and principles – which serve to inform the development of recommendations and the implementation strategy.



A2. Introduction

The Parks Master Plan (PMP) is a high-level policy document that acts to guide the future of Sidney's 28 public parks and 17 beach accesses. The objectives of the project are:

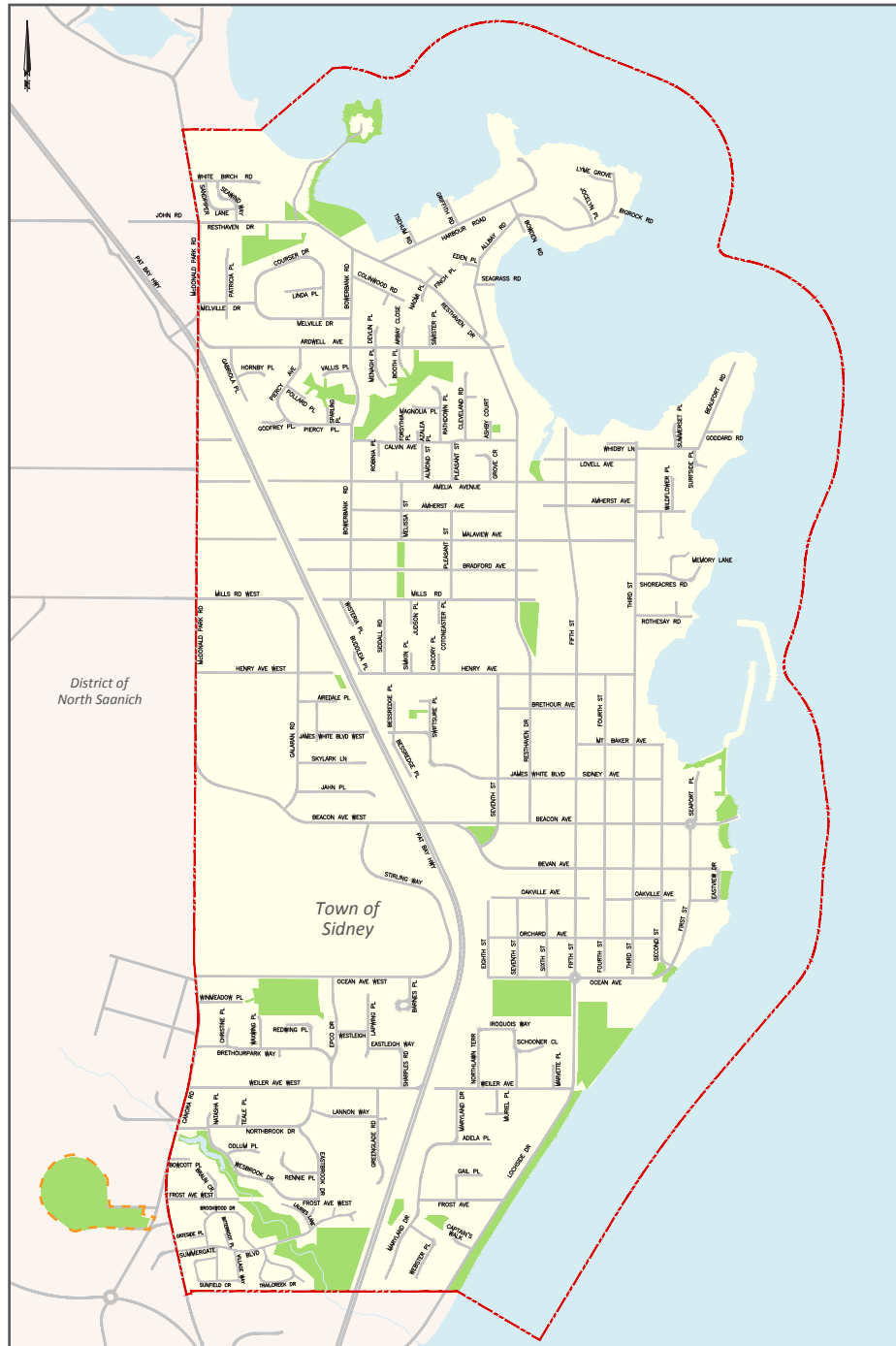
- » To identify priority improvements to local parks (e.g., new amenities, such as seating, bathrooms, or playgrounds);
- » To identify needed access and mobility improvements; and,
- » To guide future maintenance, landscaping, and natural areas management.

The plan builds upon and replaces the existing Twenty Year Parks Improvement Plan (2004) and Parks Department Master Plan (2008). As a result, the PMP will inform future Official Community Plan and related policy developments as well as on-going park improvements, strategic planning, and budgeting.

It is important to note that the broad, high-level nature of this document means that some parks may warrant their own consultation processes and plan documents in the future.

The final PMP is based on [a] consultation with residents, key stakeholders, and Parks staff; [b] contemporary best practices; and [c] parks planning principles. The resultant recommendations and guidelines help ensure the long-term community benefit and ecological health of these spaces and places. The sections of the plan include:

- » An introduction to the project and overview of the planning process, consultation outcomes, and planning framework (Section A);
- » An inventory and assessment of [a] each individual public park, [b] beach accesses and waterfront areas, and [c] trails and linkages (Section B);
- » An overview and assessment of parks and natural areas management, including horticultural practices, staff resources, and the urban forest (Section C); and,
- » An implementation strategy, providing clear direction and recommendations for the Town to pursue in order to realize its parks objectives (Section D).



A3. Parks Context Map

The planning area for the PMP includes all lands within the Town of Sidney, as well as Rotary Park (outlined in orange, above) in the District of North Saanich (the Town shares costs associated with this park). The scope of the PMP includes all 28 public parks, 17 beach accesses, public trails, and related waterfront and access areas.



A4. Project Background

Sidney's parks and public spaces are a strong source of local pride and a key visitor attraction. This includes horticultural displays, such as the flower beds welcoming visitors off the highway and the naturalized landscaping along the Lochside waterfront; welcoming park amenities, such as the band shell in Beacon Park and the new skatepark at Tulista Park; and natural areas, such as Reay Creek, the many waterfront areas, and pockets of urban forest throughout the town.

Yet, while parks staff and volunteers work tirelessly to maintain and enhance the Town's parks, some elements are aging and declining – largely due to a lack of an updated, comprehensive plan.

Therefore, this process was driven by the following key issues:

- » Some park areas and park amenities/facilities are in need of restoration, refurbishment, or replacement;
- » Park improvements have not been proportionately distributed throughout different areas of Town, and some areas are seeing an increase in population and park users;

- » Park amenities, as a whole, could better accommodate and welcome people of all ages and abilities; and,
- » There is a lack of overall plan for prioritized capital project spending for local parks.

Moreover, in addressing these issues, it was essential to tap into a representative set of key stakeholders: Those that manage and maintain the parks (i.e., Parks staff, volunteers); those that currently use parks, as well as those that may like to use parks more or use parks in the future; and partner organizations that may program or utilize parks. In consulting this range of stakeholders, as well as prioritizing their respective needs, the PMP process was a platform for maximizing long-term community benefit through its system of parks.

Thus, the PMP builds on previous parks policy and initiatives, such as the Twenty Year Parks Improvement Plan (2004) and Parks Department Master Plan (2008), to respond to these issues and create a comprehensive blueprint for the future of Sidney's Parks.



A5. Purpose (and How to Use This Plan)

The purpose of the Parks Master Plan (PMP) is to provide: [a] high-level guiding directions for the future of Sidney Parks, [b] key recommendations for improving the management of the natural areas and the urban forest, and [c] an implementation strategy that identifies priority improvements in individual parks as well as across the entire parks system. The document is future-oriented and allows for implementation to occur over time, in a strategic and phased way – as funding is available. This will allow the Town's key public spaces to evolve in a manageable, sustainable, and viable manner, while being responsive to local demographic and built environment changes.

The key topics that the PMP addresses are:

- » Developing a clear framework for Sidney's parks, including goals, values, and guiding principles that all other recommended actions and initiatives should respond to;
- » Maximizing community benefit through the consideration and balance of social, physical, and ecological well-being;

- » Utilizing parks and trails to enhance connectivity and mobility within and between neighbourhoods;
- » Helping Sidney's parks and public spaces be welcoming and accommodating of all ages and abilities, through diverse amenities and accessibility improvements;
- » Supporting the maintenance of and contributing to the Town's "urban forest" (i.e., urban tree canopy);
- » Addressing ecological health and integrity through improved horticultural practices, restoration efforts, management, and collaboration;
- » Ensuring parks staff have the resources necessary to fulfill the directions and key recommendations of the PMP; and,
- » Providing an implementation strategy for key actions and park improvements.

Throughout, the PMP further identifies a number of 'new ideas' that may be considered in the future, as well as a number of supporting next steps that will facilitate achieving the project goals.



A6. Project Process

The project process was rooted in a collaborative team approach to developing the final plan. The process consisted of three primary phases: [1] Preliminary Research and Assessments, [2] Community, stakeholder, and staff consultation, and [3] plan development and community 'check-in'. The diagram on the next page illustrates this process.

To start, the Project Team (consisting of consultant and an interdepartmental staff team) undertook an inventory and high-level assessment of the entire parks system. Next, a stakeholder workshop tested early design ideas and developed a range of key directions to be pursued in more detail.

The Project Team then developed these directions into a number of preliminary illustrations and visual examples. These scenarios were presented to the Advisory Committee, refined further, and

then presented at a Community Concept Gallery (in-person and online survey) in order to harvest feedback on the public's preferred ideas to be included in the plan.

Next, the refined final Concept Design and preliminary detailed designs were iteratively developed, informed by regular Advisory Committee meetings.

As the key elements of the plan were finalized, detailed designs were advanced and construction drawings began in earnest.

The resulting plan is thus based on a collaborative team approach (i.e., staff and consultant input), broad public and stakeholder input, as well as contemporary best practices and streetscape design / planning principles. The final document was presented to Council and community.

Dedicated Park Plans

The Parks Master Plan strives to address the key needs, challenges, and opportunities across all 28 public parks in Sidney. While able to guide priority capital improvements and related next steps for the entire parks system, some parks require dedicated processes to determine their future – whether a succinct community engagement initiative or a detailed park management plan.

A7. Community Consultation



Analyses

The Project Team conducted a high-level assessment of existing parks & a detailed analysis of existing, relevant policy.

Project Team

Aug



Stakeholder Workshop

A workshop is held with key parks stakeholders in order to further refine & detail the priorities identified by the community.

Stakeholders

Sept



Open House

The second public event allows residents to discuss and comment on the the draft Parks Master Plan.

Public

Jan

July



Ideas Fair & Public Survey

A public survey is followed by an interactive engagement event to harvest insight & ideas from community members.

Public

Sept



Staff Workshop

Parks Staff take part in an intensive workshop to help translate ideas and priorities into potential actions and initiatives.

Park Staff

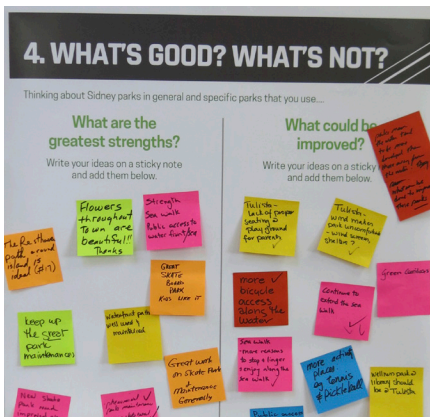
Nov



Public Presentation

The final document is presented to Council for adoption.

Project Team



A8. Consultation Outcomes

A collaborative engagement process integrated broad public engagement with focused consultations with key stakeholders, including a dedicated action-planning workshop with Parks staff. As a result, the project process progressed from guided but open-ended public feedback to a park-by-park refinement of ideas, leveraging the vast site-specific knowledge of staff. The key outcomes from the engagement process are summarized briefly below:

Sidney Parks' Greatest Strengths are...

- » Horticultural displays, landscaping, and maintenance
- » Waterfront walkway and ocean views
- » Access to natural areas and the ocean
- » Parks in proximity to where people live
- » Community-building opportunities
- » New skatepark at Tulista
- » Open green space
- » Playgrounds and kids amenities

The greatest needs to address are...

- » Aging amenities, especially playgrounds
- » Excess geese and dog droppings

- » Smoking and cigarette butts
- » Lack of picnic tables and seating areas, especially with weather protection (cover)
- » Shortage of public washrooms
- » Poor beach accesses
- » Lack of designated kayak access
- » Lack of short-term moorage / tie ups
- » Lack of off-leash dog park on east side

Some creative ideas for the future of Sidney's parks are...

- » Designate Tulista as an 'activity park' with skatepark, volleyball, exercise equipment, parkour area, etc.
- » Daylight and restore portions of Mermaid Creek, including south of the park, and the creek in Melville Park
- » Establish Sidney as the 'Gateway to the Gulf Islands' through information and signage, improved and designated paddlecraft access and parking, etc.
- » Create a disc golf course that links multiple neighbourhood parks (e.g., Melville, Beaver, Resthaven, and Rathdown)



A9. Project Framework

Based on the first (analyses) and second (consultation) phases of the project, a framework was created from which to build the resulting recommendations and actions. The project goals, values, and principles inform all the subsequent plan content; and, this content must speak to the framework in order to achieve the project goals.

Project Goals

Based on past initiatives and reports, public and stakeholder consultation, and project team analysis, the following goals were developed to represent the key objectives that the project seeks to achieve.



Targeted Capital Improvements

Identify and budget for existing amenities in greatest need of replacement/repair and new features of highest priority.



Natural Areas Enhancement

Provide high-level guidance for the restoration, maintenance, and expansion of natural areas and the urban forest.



Mobility & Connectivity

Identify strategies to increase accessibility for all abilities and enhance the mobility of all users between and within parks.

Project Values

Similarly, based on stakeholder consultation, and project team analysis, the following represents the most important, core values that the project should speak to and embrace in all aspects of planning.



Community

Plan for parks to function as community hubs that connect residents and build community.



Natural Environment

Plan for the protection, enhancement, and expansion of natural park areas.



Well-being

Design parks to facilitate recreational pursuits and physical exercise, and promote healthy lifestyles.



Ecological Health & Resilience

i.e., continually pursue big and small ways to enhance the integrity and resilience of the natural environment.



Accessibility & Broad Appeal

i.e., work toward an interconnected green space network that provides convenient access for all ages and abilities.



Collaboration

i.e., foster partnerships with stakeholder groups to improve detailed park planning, maintenance, and implementation.



Systems Integration

i.e., look for multi-functional solutions, such as landscaping that looks nice but also contributes stormwater management or species habitat.



Long-term Thinking

i.e., set clear direction for all public parks, while providing a platform for more detailed park initiatives in the future.



Nature-Amenity Balance

i.e., strike a balance between natural green spaces and designed recreational spaces.

Project Principles

Finally, the project principles represent the guiding 'rules' that the recommendations and priority actions should speak to in order to achieve the project goals.

B

PARKS INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

B1 Chapter Overview

This chapter presents an inventory and assessment of all PMP areas, including parks, beach accesses, and trails. The content is representative of the outcomes from the first two phases of the project: project team analyses and community/stakeholder consultation. Inside, you will find...

- » An update PMP map, including all 28 public parks and 17 beach accesses;
- » A park-by-park assessment, including a descriptive overview, existing features, needs and challenges, new ideas, and priority improvements;
- » A similar assessment of beach accesses and waterfront areas;
- » A similar assessment of trails and linkages;
- » A summary of 'big ideas' heard through the community and stakeholder consultation process that may inform future park planning and improvements; and,
- » A gallery of 'big ideas' that help to visualize some of the amenities proposed for Sidney's parks.



B2. Introduction

This section represents a synthesis of the outcomes from the first two phases of this project: a parks analyses and the community/stakeholder engagement.

Within, you will find an assessment of [a] each public park in Sidney, [b] beach accesses and waterfront areas; [c] trails and linkages, and [d] 'big ideas' heard through the project process.

It is worth noting that, because of its relatively broad scope (from parks to waterfront

areas to urban trees), the PMP does not address all topics in detail. Instead, the ideas, priority improvements, and resultant recommendations (Chapter C) range from specific improvements (e.g., a new bench) to next steps (e.g., dedicated park plans for certain parks) to ideas to inform future initiatives (e.g., new linkages to be detailed in an Active Transportation Plan) to broad directions – depending on the topic, with an obvious focus on needed improvements to public parks, themselves.



Town of Sidney

PARKS MASTER PLAN 2017

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PUBLIC PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

- 1 Ashby Park
- 2 Beacon Park
- 3 Beaver Park
- 4 Bevan Park
- 5 Boulder Park
- 6 Brethour Park
- 7 Community Wellness Park
- 8 Eastview Park
- 9 Frost Ave. Park
- 10 Glass Beach Park
- 11 Iroquois Park
- 12 Lochside Waterfront Park
- 13 Maryland Park
- 14 Melissa Playground
- 15 Melville Park
- 16 Mermaid Park
- 17 Oceanspray Park
- 18 Peter Grant Park
- 19 Rathdown Park
- 20 Reay Creek Park
- 21 Resthaven Linear Park
- 22 Resthaven Park
- 23 Rose Garden
- 24 Rotary Park
- 25 Seaport Park
- 26 Swiftsure Park
- 27 Totem Park
- 28 Tulista Park

BEACH ACCESSES

- A Big Rock Road
- B Bowden Road
- C Seagrass Road
- D Ardwell Avenue
- E Fifth Street
- F Third Street
- G Beaufort Road
- H Goddard Road
- I Surfside Place
- J Amherst Avenue
- K Memory Lane
- L Rothesay Road
- M Oakville Avenue
- N Port Sidney
- O Glass Beach
- P Lochside
- Q Lochside

TRAILS & PATHWAYS

- Waterfront Walkway
- Lochside Regional Trail
- Multi-use Path
- Flight Path Multi-use Trail
- West Side Highway Path
- Pathways/Accesses

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS



LATEST REVISION : Nov. 2017



B3. 2017 Parks Master Plan Map

The adjacent map is based on the 2008 Parks Master Plan map and updated to include #1 Ashby Park, #10 Glass Beach Park, and #27 Totem Park, as well as all active transportation connection (e.g., within parks, the Flight Path) and other community green spaces (e.g., at Greenglade Community Centre).

Over time, this map will require revisions to include future park areas, active transportation connections, or other park-related amenities (e.g., viewpoints, beach accesses).

B4. Parks Inventory & Assessment

The following subsections provide an inventory and assessment of all 28 public parks in Sidney, followed by subsections dedicated to beach accesses and waterfront area (B5), trails and linkages (B6), and other 'big ideas' that emerged during the PMP process (B7).

In general, the subsections are broken up as follows:

- » A brief, descriptive Overview of the park;

- » Existing Features and Amenities;
- » Identified Needs and Challenges, determined through parks analyses and engagement;
- » New Ideas heard through the community and stakeholder consultation process;
- » Priority Improvements, representing those needs or new ideas that are most pressing for each individual park or planning area.





#1. Ashby Park

Overview

Ashby park is a small grassy area on Ashby Court with no amenities.

Existing Features

- » Open grass

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Resolve long-term future

New Ideas

- » Allotment gardens
- » Playground

Priority Improvements

- » Maintain as open green space
-



#2. Beacon Park

Overview

Beacon Park is a prominent downtown waterfront space that is located at the East terminus of Beacon Avenue and includes part of the Sidney Waterfront Walkway. The park features an open green space with band shell, ocean views, and regular use for public events.

Future planning for Beacon Park should be significantly informed by the Downtown Waterfront Vision (2017), which focuses on Beacon Park and the surrounding public areas.

Existing Features

- » Open manicured green space
- » Band shell
- » Benches
- » Public art
- » Limited parking
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Pathways
- » Waterfront access
- » Lighting
- » Trash receptacles

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Public washrooms
- » Water fountain
- » Shade
- » Biking park (on wharf)
- » Minor irrigation improvements



- » Turf management difficult with so many events
- » Tour bus parking safety concerns on causeway

- » Conduct assessment with plan to refurbish/replace existing waterfront bollards, chains, and lighting

New Ideas

- » See Downtown Waterfront Vision for directions re future of Beacon Park, adjacent parking area, Beacon Wharf, Glass Beach, and the Waterfront Walkway

- » Portable bleacher seating for special events
- » Update lighting for band shell
- » Additional permanent seating areas

Priority Improvements

- » Support directions from Downtown Waterfront Vision
- » Along with Seaport Park, conduct an assessment with a plan to refurbish waterfront bollards, chains, lighting, and similar features in downtown waterfront

- » Public washrooms, drinking fountain, and bicycle parking in close proximity to Beacon Park (e.g., on redeveloped Beacon Wharf)
- » Additional seating and shade



#3. Beaver Park

Overview

Beaver Park is a neighbourhood open green space near the intersection of Ardwell Avenue and Bowerbank Road with limited amenities and multiple access points from adjacent residential streets.

Existing Features

- » Large open grass area
- » Bench
- » Trash receptacles
- » Swing set

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Picnic table and benches
- » Dumping issues by residents
- » Accessible trail

New Ideas

- » New natural plantings and trees
- » Lighting
- » Off-leash dog park
- » Better signage and wayfinding
- » Make more inviting
- » New playground / play feature

Priority Improvements

- » New picnic table and benches
 - » Assess viability of crushed gravel connector trail with lighting and wayfinding signage
 - » Natural plantings and trees
 - » New/additional play features
 - » Undertake further consultation re future off-leash dog park
-



#4. Bevan Park

Overview

Bevan Park is a small green space at the entry to Sidney on Beacon Avenue, east of the highway and adjacent to the Mary Winspear Centre. The park features horticultural displays and the Saanich Peninsula Visitor Info Centre.

Existing Features

- » Parking stalls
- » Visitor Info Centre
- » Manicured grass
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Benches and picnic tables
- » Sidewalks and pathways

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Improve horticultural display shield

New Ideas

- » Permanent reader board for special event notices
- » Drinking fountain
- » More picnic tables
- » Public washrooms

Priority Improvements

- » Improve horticultural display shield and increase presence of native plantings
-



#5. Boulder Park

Overview

Boulder Park is a small neighbourhood park on the west side of the highway, at the east end of Henry Avenue, featuring an open grass area with a single swing set.

Existing Features

- » Swing set
- » Open grass area
- » Trash receptacle

Identified Needs & Issues

- » New playground equipment
- » Seating and picnic table

New Ideas

- » See the West Side Local Area Plan (WSLAP) for directions regarding Boulder Park and adjacent public spaces

Priority Improvements

- » Support the directions in the WSLAP and look to acquire adjacent land to expand Boulder Park and connect to new parks and greenways in the neighbourhood
 - » Replace the swing set and add new play equipment that can be expanded upon as the park expands in size
-



#6. Brethour Park

Overview

Brethour Park is a large open grass area (formerly used for baseball/soccer) and adjacent forested area with a path network connecting to local streets. The park is located on the west side of the highway, adjacent to the airport, and is currently underutilized for recreation.

Existing Features

- » 3 baseball backstops and dugouts in poor condition
- » Forested area with bark mulch pathways
- » Fenced from road
- » Parking area
- » Non-functioning irrigation system

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Underutilized for recreation and non-functioning irrigation system
- » Issues with invasives in forested area
- » No turf management plan
- » Poor drainage and subsurface conditions not conducive to use as an irrigated sports field
- » Washrooms if park use becomes more intensive

New Ideas

- » Secondary practice field for baseball and other sports
- » Bike skills park (part in open field, part in forested area)
- » Pickleball courts
- » Alternative recreational uses

Priority Improvements

- » Pursue a dedicated planning process for Brethour Park, with direction toward alternative recreational uses not currently offered in Sidney (e.g., bike skills course)
-



#7. Community Wellness Park

Overview

The Community Wellness Park is a small public space with exercise equipment for older adults, adjacent to the Rose Garden and library.

Existing Features

- » Older adult exercise equipment
- » Pathway loop

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Not well used but a few regulars
- » Accessibility assessment
- » Evaluation of equipment condition

New Ideas

- » Consider moving equipment to a higher use park or trail area

Priority Improvements

- » As part of a future age-friendly or older adults strategy, consult the community about relocating the equipment to a higher use area
-



#8. Eastview Park

Overview

Eastview Park is an open green space on the waterfront with direct access to Bevan Fishing Pier. The park encompasses a portion of the Sidney Waterfront Walkway and includes a display of brick pavers dedicated to donors contributing to the 1996 construction of the pier.

Existing Features

- » Linear waterfront walk
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Manicured grass with picnic benches, seating, and trash receptacles
- » View points
- » Public art
- » Donor recognition feature (bricks)

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Boardwalk / viewing platform instead of hedge at waterfront
- » Drinking fountain
- » Improve beach access
- » Improve steep gravel paths that transition onto paving stone walkway
- » Transition from foreshore to formal planting areas difficult to maintain

New Ideas

- » See Downtown Waterfront Vision
- » Natural playground

Priority Improvements

- » Replace waterfront hedge with accessible viewing platform
 - » More seating and tables
 - » Drinking fountain along walkway
 - » Investigate improved beach access beside pier
-



#9. Frost Avenue Park

Overview

This park is a small forested green space adjacent to the highway with neighbourhood access off of Maryland Drive at Frost Avenue.

Existing Features

- » Neighbourhood access
- » Natural treed landscape

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Formalize entrance and improve wayfinding with improved signage and landscaping

New Ideas

- » Retain as natural green space and buffer to highway
- » Allotment gardens

Priority Improvements

- » Retain as natural green space and buffer to highway
-



#10. Glass Beach

Overview

Glass beach is a well-used urban beach park lying between Beacon Park/Wharf and the Bevan Fishing Pier. The park includes part of the Waterfront Walkway, as well as a kayak launch.

Existing Features

- » Manicured grass
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Public art
- » Benches
- » Walkway
- » Kayak launch
- » Beach access (steep stairs)
- » Beach area with driftwood

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Beach wash off area
- » Clarify roles and improve maintenance of pond area below restaurant or consider removing/replacing as needed
- » Improved access – stairwells and off bottom of Beacon
- » Railing replacement at diver's point

New Ideas

- » See the Downtown Waterfront Vision for direction re. improvements, including access, foreshore restoration, and new amenities
- » More glass

Priority Improvements

- » Support directions from the Downtown Waterfront Vision
 - » Improve access points, including existing stairwells and formalizing access from the bottom of Beacon Avenue
 - » Replace railing at Diver's Point
 - » Fountain with beach wash off area
-



#11. Iroquois Park

Overview

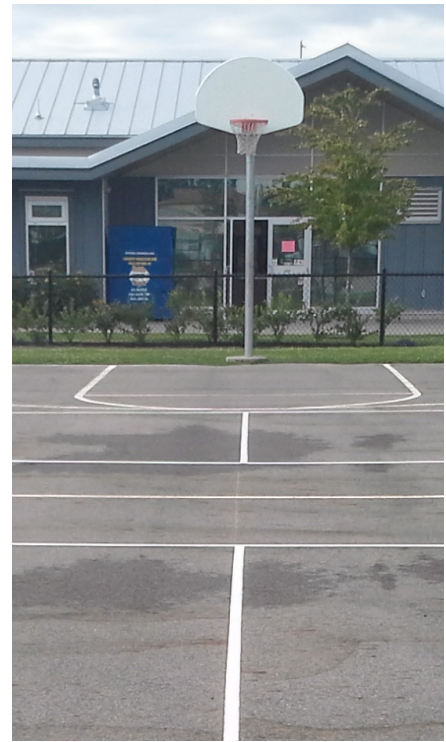
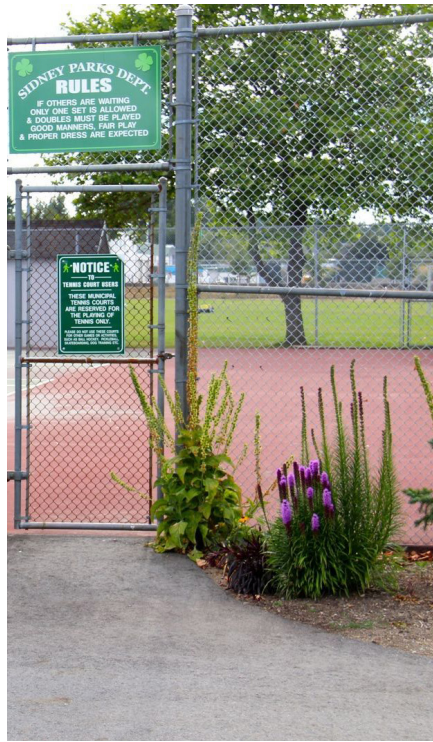
Iroquois Park is a large, multi-use park near the waterfront and adjacent to Tulista Park. The park includes a variety of recreational facilities, from a spray park to sports fields to playground to multi-sport court. The park is also home to the Sidney Lion's Food Bank building.

Existing Features

- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Concession building with change rooms and washrooms
- » Sidney Lion's Food Bank Building
- » Water spray park
- » Playground equipment
- » Soccer/cricket field with lights
- » Open green space
- » Practice putting green
- » Tennis courts (with pickleball lines)
- » Multi-sport court (with pickleball lines)
- » Pond feature

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Lighting for multi-sport court
- » Shade/picnic shelter near spray park
- » More trees
- » Dog friendly fountain
- » Resolve future use(s) of park to help determine future of park buildings
- » Pave pathways
- » Landscape plan to remediate orchard area with potential fully-accessible picnic shelter (Council motion)



New Ideas

- » Expanded spray park
- » Develop multi-functional natural playscape in orchard area
- » Additional playground appropriate for children under 6
- » Roller hockey / lacrosse box
- » Sports equipment locker (balls, sticks, rackets)

Priority Improvements

- » Add lighting to sports court (consideration for solar)
- » Pilot test a sports equipment locker with balls, sticks, and rackets)
- » Add a dog-friendly fountain
- » Create a covered seating/picnic area near spray park and/or orchard
- » Remediate orchard area with preference given to a new picnic area and/or natural playscape
- » Add playground equipment for younger children
- » Investigate expansion of spray park



#12. Lochside Waterfront Park

Overview

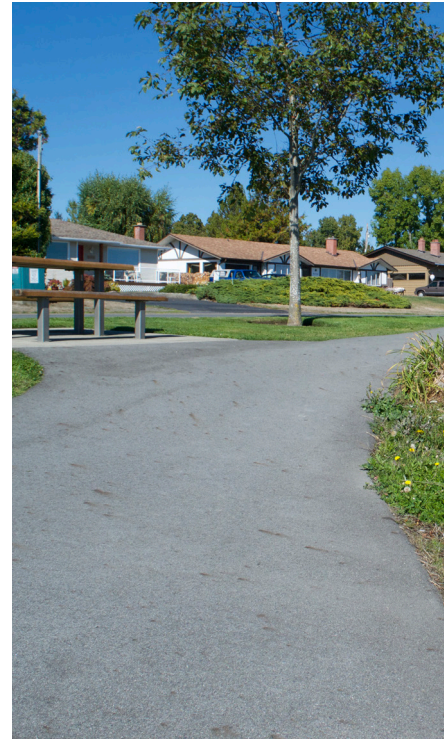
Lochside Waterfront Park is a linear park that encompasses a large section of the Sidney Waterfront Walkway. The park features stunning views, landscaping, seating, and access to the waterfront.

Existing Features

- » Parking areas along length of park
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Upper all weather paved pathway
- » Lower gravel pathway, adjacent to beach
- » Benches
- » Beach access points
- » Natural beach areas

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Lower walkway surface evaluation and possible upgrade (e.g., compacted gravel or asphalt)
- » Bank restoration
- » Steep banks between paths hard to maintain at south end – soften slopes
- » Upgrade trash receptacles
- » Beach access accessibility (log removal)
- » Maintain and keep clean/clear existing accessibility ramps
- » Regular winter storm damage



New Ideas

- » Consider re-lengthening and improving overall quality of lower walkway when addressing bank and restoration efforts
- » Bollard lights for lower walkway
- » Look for additional ramp access opportunities, such as south of the boat ramp by the ferry terminal or bottom of 5th Street
- » Covered electric barbecue areas
- » Enhance beach (e.g., artificial reef) and create proper beach park area
- » Explore the potential to establish one or more 'beach parks' with more amenities (e.g., upland picnic tables) and increased accessibility – consider area south of boat launch
- » More lounging seating

Priority Improvements

- » Evaluate and consider upgrades to lower walkway, including resurfacing and lighting
- » Evaluate bank restoration and maintenance strategies
- » Upgrade trash receptacles
- » Improve maintenance of beach access ramps
- » Explore beach enhancements and sea-level rise mitigation strategies
- » Add more variety of seating



#13. Maryland Park

Overview

Maryland Park is a smaller open green space accessed by two neighbourhood streets.

Existing Features

- » Neighbourhood access
- » Open green space
- » Natural landscape
- » Some lighting

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Add bench(es) and picnic table

New Ideas

- » Minor grading to smooth lawn
- » Allotment garden opportunity

Priority Improvements

- » Add bench(es) / picnic table and playground equipment in the creation of a small neighbourhood park
 - » Investigate minor grading to smooth green space
-



#14. Melissa Playground

Overview

Melissa Playground is a park created from a road right-of-way. The park spans two blocks: one features the playground, and other features a pedestrian pathway connection.

Existing Features

- » Open grass area
- » Playground structure
- » Pathways connecting parallel streets
- » Trash receptacle
- » Bench

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Allotment garden potential
- » New swing set
- » Drinking fountain
- » Bench near swings
- » Play area transition – edge needs improvement

New Ideas

- » Irrigation system around playground area
- » New playground equipment – potential natural playground

Priority Improvements

- » Investigate community appetite for location of a community allotment garden (southern block)
 - » Drinking fountain
 - » Upgrade play area with new swing set, play equipment (consider natural playground features), seating, and improved transition to grass
-



#15. Melville Park

Overview

Melville Park is located near the north end of Resthaven Drive and includes a large green space, creek, and stone bridge. The park is accessible from adjacent streets.

Existing Features

- » Paved pathway with stone bridge
- » Creek and open grass area
- » Trash receptacle
- » Baseball backstop

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Picnic tables and benches
- » Plant more trees
- » Trail link improvements for accessibility
- » Children and youth play equipment and amenities

New Ideas

- » Restoration of natural creek habitat (Council motion to investigate feasibility of this)
- » Naturalize and use for pedestrian/cyclist connectivity
- » Off-leash dog park
- » Natural playground
- » Wayfinding signage

Priority Improvements

- » Investigate viability of natural creek habitat restoration
 - » Improve path accessibility and wayfinding
 - » Add seating/picnic area
 - » Plant more trees and natural landscaping
 - » Develop play area (e.g., natural or conventional playground)
-



#16. Mermaid Park

Overview

Mermaid Park is a small open green space built over stormwater infrastructure leading into Mermaid Creek (and Roberts Bay).

Existing Features

- » Natural landscape
- » Bench and trash receptacle
- » Swing set
- » Low maintenance grass area

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Creek / habitat restoration
- » Access to beach front
- » Interpretive signage

New Ideas

- » Irrigation around playground
- » Picnic table
- » New and more challenging playground equipment
- » Opportunities to daylight parts of creek further south – e.g., bottom of Amherst, bottom of Bradford, near library

Priority Improvements

- » Investigate restoration of Mermaid Creek within park boundaries as well as opportunities to south, into neighbourhood
- » Picnic table
- » New playground with variety of equipment appropriate for young and older children



#17. Oceanspray Park

Overview

Oceanspray Park is a small waterfront park north of the Sidney/Anacortes ferry terminal. The park includes part of the Sidney Waterfront Walk and functions as a welcoming point for foot passengers on the ferry.

Existing Features

- » Manicured grass
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Public art
- » Bench

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Picnic tables and/or shelter
- » New park sign
- » More public art

New Ideas

- » Sidney map and wayfinding for walk-off passengers
- » Drinking fountain

Priority Improvements

- » Add new park/welcome signage and wayfinding map(s) for visitors
 - » Picnic table
-



#18. Peter Grant Park

Overview

Peter Grant Park is a large open green space and off-leash dog park, accessible from Reay Creek Park and trails off of Greenglade Road and Frost Avenue West.

Existing Features

- » Off-leash dog area
- » Rustic benches
- » Mulch pathways
- » Natural grassy landscape
- » Controlled driveway access
- » Winter drainage issues

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Improve meadow area for grass cutting
- » Tree planting strategy
- » Dog park features

New Ideas

- » Disc golf park
- » Invasives removal (e.g., blackberry)
- » Allotment gardens
- » Community orchard
- » Pitch and putt

Priority Improvements

- » Develop tree planting / landscaping strategy, with the potential to [a] create a significant area of native species lost to development (e.g., Douglas Fir, Garry Oak) and [b] pilot a xeriscaping/ low-water garden
 - » Meadow area improvements to facilitate grass cutting
 - » Dog waste bag dispenser
 - » Trash receptacle
-



#19. Rathdown Park

Overview

Rathdown Park is a long, level park with multiple neighbourhood connections that was created by parkland dedication through a local land subdivision. The park includes large grassy areas, pathways, and playground at the south end.

Existing Features

- » Picnic tables and bench
- » Fenced playground structure
- » Pathway system
- » Access lanes to adjacent streets
- » Large open grass areas
- » Baseball backstop

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Washrooms
- » New playground equipment – existing playground is at end of life cycle
- » Drinking fountain
- » Accessibility assessment and pathway improvements



New Ideas

- » New plantings and shade trees, particularly near playground
- » Off-leash dog area
- » Irrigation around playground
- » Expanded playground
- » Disc golf course
- » Pickleball courts
- » Naturalize bushy area near middle of park
- » Picnic shelter
- » Improved drainage – potentially achieve through landscaping and new trees
- » Establish a community gathering space

Priority Improvements

- » Initiate a dedicated planning process to determine future improvements, with strong direction toward the following: expanded playground area and new equipment, public washroom, drinking fountain, new plantings and shade trees (including near playground), and alternative recreational opportunities (e.g., disc golf)
- » Investigate drainage improvements via raingardens/swales



#20. Reay Creek Park

Overview

Reay Creek Park is a significant natural area in Sidney – a wooded linear park with a pathway that follows Reay Creek, connecting adjacent neighbourhoods and Peter Grant Park. The creek has historically been contaminated by industrial activity on airport lands.

Existing Features

- » Gravel pathways
- » Benches
- » Pedestrian bridges
- » Natural landscape
- » Reay Creek
- » Trash receptacle

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Dedicated restoration and management plan – to address pond, creek, invasives, forest habitat, and more
- » Invasive species removal
- » Interpretive / wayfinding signage
- » Accessibility assessment – identify requisite level

New Ideas

- » Improve trail linkages and wayfinding to North Saanich parks and trail system
- » More seating areas

Priority Improvements

- » Undertake a dedicated planning process to address restoration and management of natural areas, as well as wayfinding and accessibility
-



#21. Resthaven Linear Park

Overview

Resthaven Linear Park (distinct from the adjacent Resthaven Park) is a waterfront park, accessible by road bridge or by trail from Resthaven Park, that includes an open space around the perimeter of Resthaven Island.

Existing Features

- » Pathway access from Resthaven Park
- » Natural landscapes
- » Views of Tsehum Harbour and Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary
- » Benches
- » Gazebo

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Assess wayfinding and accessibility of pathway and linear park
- » Liveaboards and dinghy access a concern for some residents

New Ideas

- » n/a

Priority Improvements

- » Assess the wayfinding and accessibility of the park pathway and connection to Resthaven Park to determine related improvements
-



#22. Resthaven Park

Overview

Resthaven Park is a large waterfront open green space with a playground, tennis court, washrooms, and a pathway connection to Resthaven Island. The park is adjacent to Tsehum Harbour and has views of the Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary. The park is underserved, considering its size and proximity to new development in the area.

Existing Features

- » Fenced playground structure
- » Pathway network
- » Open green space
- » Public washrooms
- » Pathway connection to Resthaven Island
- » Tennis court
- » Views of Tsehum Harbour and migratory bird sanctuary

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Irrigation system needed if major planting feature installed
- » Drinking fountain
- » Picnic shelter
- » Horticultural feature with propeller
- » Replace playground fall zone with best practices material
- » Solution for excess geese
- » Pine trees are maintenance problem
- » Willows along condo trail at end of life cycle



- » Paved path in poor condition and too narrow in some places
- » Investigate ways to enhance foreshore protection

New Ideas

- » More trees and plantings
- » More seating
- » Pickleball courts
- » Plant new slow growing conifers – remove existing pines once established
- » Interpretive/wayfinding signage
- » Determine best future use of park – neighbourhood or recreational park
- » Tennis court maintenance
- » Develop park into a more featured, irrigated green space
- » Large shelter with seating and tables
- » Full park redevelopment

Priority Improvements

- » Dedicated planning process to establish future of park, including new amenities, plantings, irrigation system
-



#23. Rose Garden

Overview

The Rose Garden is a neighbourhood green space adjacent to the library and Community Wellness Park.

Existing Features

- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Fountain and arbour
- » Pathways
- » Benches
- » Manicured grass

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Totem needs refurbishing
- » Fountain leaks and needs repair
- » Pine bed feature needs to be reworked
- » Expand irrigation system
- » Poplars in back need assessment (install root guards)
- » More pedestrian linkages from Wellness Park

New Ideas

- » Remove poplars

Priority Improvements

- » Create additional linkage to Community Wellness Park
 - » Refurbish totem pole
 - » Repair fountain
 - » Assess and upgrade irrigation system
-



#24. Rotary Park

Overview

Rotary Park is outside the Town's boundaries; however, costs and maintenance of the park are shared with the District of North Saanich. The park features five baseball diamonds that are intensively used.

Existing Features

- » 5 baseball diamonds with dugouts and bleachers
- » Clubhouse with washrooms and concession
- » Large parking lot
- » Playground
- » Trash receptacles

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Drainage upgrades
- » Build proper soil bunkers (lock blocks)
- » Fencing repairs
- » Irrigation upgrades
- » Replace playground structure
- » New equipment shed
- » Exterior building maintenance – paint, lighting, washrooms
- » Turf management plan; annual closure for turf improvements

New Ideas

- » n/a

Priority Improvements

- » Work with North Saanich to develop a turf management plan, improve drainage, and build proper soil bunkers (lock block)
 - » Work with the Peninsula Baseball and Softball Association to fundraise and replace playground structure
-



#25. Seaport Park

Overview

Developed about 25 years ago, Seaport Park is a linear waterfront park that includes a section of the Sidney Waterfront Walkway and is adjacent to the Port Sidney Marina.

Existing Features

- » Linear walkway
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Manicured grass
- » View points
- » Benches
- » Public chess board

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Traffic circle redesign
- » Irrigation expansion
- » Flag poles and railing need paint
- » Wood stairs nearing end of life cycle
- » Refurbish dog area; add bag dispenser
- » Whale mosaic tiles slippery when wet; some broken
- » Info kiosk worn (who maintains)

New Ideas

- » Lighting at stairway to Third Street
- » Redo chess and checker set
- » Re-landscape piling gardens
- » Lawn irrigation modernization
- » Add full electrical
- » Investigate sponsorship or grant opportunities to improve path north of marina with a focus on migratory bird habitat viewing and interpretive signage

Priority Improvements

- » Parks staff to assess park needs and undertake comprehensive park refurbishment, including traffic circle redesign, irrigation expansion, stairway replacement, and other improvements – in conjunction with Beacon Park upgrade
- » In undertaking the above, consider areas of support from or collaboration with Port Sidney Marina



#26. Swiftsure Park

Overview

Swiftsure Park is a small neighbourhood park that is low-maintenance, includes a small playground, and is accessed by a single pathway.

Existing Features

- » Swing set and monkey bars

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Improve drainage, particularly around playground area

New Ideas

- » Create an additional access via future development

Priority Improvements

- » Investigate and consider pursuing minor drainage improvements around playground area
-



#27. Totem Park

Overview

Totem Park is a small waterfront park across the street from Oceanspray Park, north of the Sidney/Anacortes ferry terminal. The park features a large welcome feature with signage, landscaping, and a totem – aimed at visitors exiting the Sidney/Anacortes ferry terminal.

Existing Features

- » Manicured grass
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Public art –totem pole
- » Welcome sign

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Replace large poplar and replace with conifers
- » Refurbish totem

New Ideas

- » Picnic table(s)

Priority Improvements

- » Replace poplar with conifers
 - » Refurbish totem
-





#28. Tulista Park

Overview

Tulista Park is a prominent multi-use waterfront park, south of the ferry terminal, which includes a section of the Sidney waterfront walkway. The park has a variety of recreational uses, including a skatepark and playground.

Existing Features

- » Open green spaces
- » Public benches and pathways
- » Public art
- » Fenced playground structures
- » 2 parking lots
- » Intensive horticultural displays
- » Skateboard park and fix station
- » Boat launch
- » Undeveloped beach area
- » Covered picnic shelter
- » Bicycle fix station
- » Water fountain
- » Public washrooms
- » ArtSea Arts Council building

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Skatepark improvements – more trees, fountain, bike rack, benches, more pathways, lights, picnic shelter, make it bigger
- » Volleyball courts (already planned)
- » Renew picnic shelter



- » Resolve future use(s) and how it relates to ArtSea building and lease (Council motion) – building assessment needed
- » Seating around playground
- » Washroom facility assessment

- » Enhance pocket beach by boat ramp (remove winter storm logs and provide accessible ramp)
- » Plaque for propeller display
- » West sidewalk improvements

New Ideas

- » Shade shelter
- » Improve pathway – repave
- » Wind shelter / screen
- » Tulista as an 'activity park'
- » Move wellness park equipment here
- » Parkour or similar equipment for youth and adults
- » Build stronger relationship with ferry terminal

- » Multi-functional trees – shade, food, learning opportunities
- » New arts centre – opportunity for arts/ cultural hub
- » Bouldering rock
- » Zip-line
- » More trees
- » Moveable chairs like Beacon

Priority Improvements

- » Improvements around skatepark, including trees (with attention to potential impacts on skatepark), drinking fountain, bike rack, seating, and lighting
- » Renew picnic shelter and consider additional shelter near skatepark

- » Work with ArtSea to determine future use of building
- » Develop one or more alternative recreational amenities, with strong consideration for a zip-line and exercise-based equipment for youth and adults (e.g., parkour)



B5. Beach Accesses & Waterfront Areas

Overview

The Town currently has 17 identified beach accesses, which vary in prominence, visibility, accessibility, available public parking, and proximity to other amenities. Instead of addressing each access individually, this subsection seeks to provide both broad and specific recommendations for beach accesses in Sidney.

Additionally, this subsection provides high-level direction and recommendations for some of the Town's waterfront and beach areas.

It should be noted that this is not a waterfront or foreshore area plan; therefore, it focuses on directional guidance for these areas, not technical analysis or detailed recommendations regarding foreshore restoration or improvements.

Existing Features

- » 17 identified beach accesses
- » Informal waterfront access areas
- » Natural coastline, beaches, and foreshore improvements (e.g., breakwaters, boat launches, ferry terminals)
- » Waterfront walkway

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Designated paddlecraft launch location (Council motion) with a long-term parking option and clear signage
- » Assess all public beach accesses and consider classifying by accessibility – e.g., fully accessible, access (not mobility friendly), access at own risk,



no access – then communicate clearly via signage and brochures

- » Beach access M (Amherst Road) is used by two kayaking clubs for day trips – consider long-term (6+ hours) parking nearby and improve drainage/surfacing of pathway to improve access during winter months
- » Beach access D (Bowden Road) needs an animal-proof trash receptacle and refurbished fence, bench, and stairway

New Ideas

- » Town-supported beach cleanups (e.g., twice per year), in which volunteers undertake cleanups and the Town collects trash from designated areas
- » Consider re-designating some non-accessible beach accesses as 'viewpoints' with viewing platforms and interpretive signage
- » Consider a network of thematic viewpoints (e.g., bird watching, sunrise, working harbour)

railing (keep bank vegetation); consider a gentler, wider access for kayaks

- » Beach access C (Bigrock Road) needs new, sturdier steps
- » Beach access O (Rothesay Road) needs steps or a more accessible path
- » The path and stairway to Waterfront Walk from Third Street needs lighting
- » Establish short-term moorage in the downtown waterfront area

- » Investigate a restoration and sea-level rise adaptation initiative for the beach areas adjacent to the Lochside Waterfront Walk (park #12), and establish a designated Beach Park with upland amenities
- » Invasive plant management strategy
- » Consider establishing a viewing platform at the end of Harbour Road
- » Improve wayfinding at beach access E (Seagrass Road), such as signage and a path

Priority Improvements

- » Assessment of beach accesses to determine current level of accessibility, improve public awareness/information, and determine priority improvements
- » Short-term moorage in the downtown waterfront area
- » Designated paddlecraft launch with long-term parking option
- » Future restoration initiative for beach area adjacent to Lochside Waterfront Park



B6. Trails & Linkages

Overview

There are a number of trails and access paths throughout the Town, serving a range of functions – from neighbourhood park access to waterfront access to recreation to active transportation connections. The most notable trails in Sidney are the Waterfront Walkway, the Lochside Regional Trail, the Flight Path, and the trail along the west side of Highway 17.

This subsection provides high-level, directional recommendations for improving the Town's trails and linkages, as they relate to connectivity and mobility between and within parks. It should be noted that this is not an active transportation or mobility plan, and therefore only high-level guidance is provided. Many of these items should be pursued in greater detail via an Active Transportation planning process.

Existing Features

- » Neighbourhood park access routes
- » Connecting pathways through parks
- » Waterfront walkway from Port Sidney Marina to southern Town border
- » Lochside Regional Trail connection south to Victoria and north to North Saanich / Swartz Bay
- » West side highway path

Identified Needs & Issues

- » Use Active Transportation planning process to identify additional on-road greenways and off-road trails to enhance mobility between and within neighbourhoods, including wayfinding and signage, with a focus on north-south connections



- » Improvements to West Sidney highway path, such as resurfacing and lighting
- » Improvements to Calvin Avenue trail, including lighting, doggy bag dispenser, trash receptacles at both ends, and wayfinding signage
- » Strengthen active transportation connections and wayfinding to/from North Saanich
- » Conduct an accessibility audit of existing trails and consider the creation of trail standards related to accessibility and physical activity – use this to both raise awareness and identify improvements (e.g., more benches, improved surfacing)
- » Consider removing baffles at park entrances to increase accessibility and pedestrian convenience.

New Ideas

- » As part of the above, look for new greenway and trail linkages between parks in the establishment of a network of green spaces throughout the town; e.g., Resthaven Park to Melville Park to Beaver Park to Rathdown Park
- » Investigate strategies for extending the Waterfront Walkway to the north; e.g., utilizing greenways where a waterfront path is not viable via redevelopment
- » Investigate the designation of Weiler Avenue West as a greenway connection between the highway overpass and the Flight Path and North Saanich
- » Explore ways to utilize boulevards as pedestrian amenities / greenway features when sidewalks are absent
- » Improve wayfinding/signage to parks and between parks, in order to improve the visibility of parks and awareness of active transportation connections
- » Better utilize green spaces at base of pedestrian overpass (e.g., seating, bike repair, drinking fountains)
- » Through a Active Transportation Plan process, look for ways to improve waterfront access for bicycles while mitigating conflicts with pedestrians

Priority Improvements

- » Work with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to improve West Side highway path with, at minimum, better surfacing and lighting
- » Improve Calvin Avenue trail
- » Pursue an Active Transportation plan to strengthen off- and on-road connections between and within Sidney neighbourhoods



Westmoreland Park Nature Play – Portland, Oregon

B7. Big Ideas

Overview

"Big Ideas" are those needs and opportunities identified that go beyond specific park, beach access, and trail issues. These recommendations provide high level direction for the park system as a whole, from amenity upgrades to programming to future initiatives.

Next Steps

- » Comprehensive accessibility audit of parks, trails, and beach accesses to identify key improvements
- » Work with partners to develop Sidney's identity as a "Gateway to the Gulf Islands"; e.g., establish designated kayak launches and destination points, grant special paddlecraft parking permits (24 hours), create short-term moorage
- » Identify areas lacking park space, park amenities, and/or pedestrian connectivity then prioritize the acquisition of lands for new parks and trails via the development process (e.g., rights-of-way) or Town-purchased land
- » As above, create a centrally-located downtown public space (i.e., plaza), by using existing Town-owned land and/or acquiring new land – give strong consideration to 4th Street north of Beacon
- » Similarly, as downtown is redeveloped, work with developers to prioritize the design 'between buildings' in the creation of a network of small plaza spaces, pedestrian connections, and similar public spaces (e.g., street corners) to support a growing population
- » Work with partners to expand programming in local parks; e.g., outdoor movies, yoga, community barbecues
- » Prioritize the acquisition of small "pocket" parks with new development, in order to mitigate the impacts of increased densities

Communication

- » In the above, consider the inclusion of maps, photos, etiquette, and ecological awareness
- » As part of an Active Transportation Plan or dedicated wayfinding initiative, develop a comprehensive wayfinding and signage strategy throughout the Town, with an emphasis on parks, trails, and pedestrian connectivity
- » Develop a parks and trails brochure that clearly and succinctly identifies local parks and amenities; trails and walking routes; accessible spaces; and connections outside of Sidney (e.g., McDonald Campground, the Flight Path, Salish Sea Marine Trail, Sidney Spit Marine Park)

New Amenities

- » Develop a new water park (e.g., Resthaven, Rathdown) and/or expand the existing spray park
- » Develop one or more bike skills parks, pump tracks, etc. (e.g., Brethour Park)
- » Develop more playgrounds (including 'natural' play areas) in residential areas
- » Identify and work with partners to expand Sidney Seaside Sculpture Walk (see Castlegar Sculpturewalk as a precedent)
- » Examine the need for another outdoor performance/event space (e.g., at Tulista)
- » Consider new park amenities that support community building, such as allotment gardens, electric barbecues (e.g., Tulista, Resthaven, Lochside), or bocce/petanque courts with seating
- » Develop new play equipment and amenities that facilitate play/exercise among older children, youth, and adults, such as parkour, bouldering, and calisthenics equipment (see Langley's Penzer Park as a precedent)
- » Develop one or more new playgrounds (conventional or more natural) in downtown Sidney (e.g., at Eastview or Beacon Park)
- » Develop a zip-line at one ore more parks (e.g., Tulista, Iroquois, Resthaven)
- » Establish 1-2 off-leash dog parks or areas on the east side of the highway
- » Develop a disc golf course, with consideration for a course that spans Resthaven and Melville or Beaver and Rathdown
- » Develop a dedicated pickleball facility capable of hosting tournaments

Priority Improvements

- » Accessibility audit
 - » Gateway to Gulf Islands
 - » Central downtown plaza
 - » Parks and trails brochure
 - » More playgrounds
 - » More youth and adult exercise opportunities
 - » Off-leash dog park on east side
-



Example of a zip line in a park.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.

B8. Big Ideas Gallery

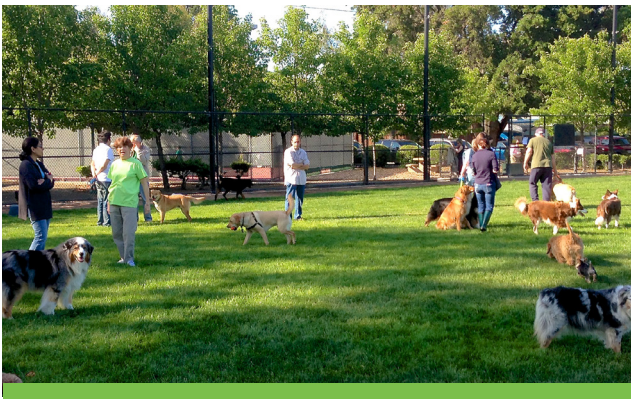
"Big Ideas" are those needs and opportunities identified that go beyond specific park, beach access, and trail issues. These recommendations provide high level direction for the park system as a whole, from amenity upgrades to programming to future initiatives.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



Example of avenue waterfront connection.



PARKS & NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT

C1. Chapter Overview

This chapter addresses the operations and management of the Town's parks department, itself (e.g., staffing, resources), as well as the management of natural areas and the urban forest. Inside, you will find...

- » Recommendations, directions and next steps for improving parks operations and management
- » Priority improvements identified for these two planning areas
- » Recommendations, directions, and next steps for improving the management of natural areas and Sidney's urban forest



C2. Introduction

A successful parks system involves not only the physical and natural assets, themselves, but also the on-going management of programmed and natural spaces by Town staff and community volunteers.

Sidney is well-known for its beautifully landscaped public realm, particularly along the waterfront area, and community members and staff alike take pride in this. However, maintaining the Town's own high standards of park management is particularly challenging in the face of increasing demands (e.g., increased population and park use, expanded public realm landscaping)

and increasing aspirations (as represented by this plan). For example, while areas like Beacon Park and the Lochside Waterfront Walkway possess beautifully manicured landscapes, other parks – particularly more naturalized ones – lack the allocated resources to maintain ecological and social/recreational functioning.

This section – and this plan as a whole – aims to address these challenges by, at a high level, addressing how the parks system is managed as a whole and looking at ways to better manage natural areas, including the Town's urban forest.



C3. Management & Operations

Overview

The management, maintenance, and landscaping of Sidney Parks is a source of staff and community pride. Yet, the demands placed on the Parks Department continue to grow (from parks to the grounds of public buildings to downtown beautification to special events to areas outside the Town's jurisdiction, such as the Lochside Regional Trail), while staff and resource capacity do not.

In order to maintain the high standard of Sidney's parks and manage a growing scope of work for the Parks Department, management and operational improvements are needed. This subsection provides high-level direction for these improvements.

Management

- » Review Parks staff and equipment resource capacity to ensure the existing standards for parks and open spaces are maintained with growing scope
- » Periodically review allocation of staff resources by area to ensure the needs of growing or underserved areas are met
- » Work with MainRoad (MOTI contractor) and the CRD to address the standard and responsibility of landscaping and maintenance of the Lochside Regional Trail and the West Side highway path
- » Assess existing and potential future gateways to Sidney, including roadway and trail access points (e.g., former Wanda site, Mary Winspear Centre, Lochside Regional Trail), to determine improvements needed, resources required, and inter-organizational cooperation necessary

- » Investigate ways to provide more recycling and composting options

Horticulture & Landscaping

- » Ensure staff capacity and equipment resources are available to maintain landscaping and beautification standards throughout the Town
- » Assess Sidney by the Sea sign at Beacon Avenue and Highway 17 to determine need for refurbishment or replacement
- » Investigate (through an initial pilot test) the use of natural/integrated stormwater management techniques to create landscaping features (e.g., raingardens and swales) that also address drainage issues and capture/filter stormwater
- » Identify regulatory requirements and expand use of composting for waste management and as natural fertilizer
- » Expand the use of low-maintenance and native landscaping; examples include native landscaping plots in Beacon Park with interpretive signage, placing a greater emphasis on native and adaptive non-native at some Town gateways, and restoring the slope below the Lochside waterfront walk with native vegetation
- » Explore improvements to pest and weed management practices through an integrated, natural-based approach
- » Investigate grant opportunities to support the restoration of native ecosystems in local parks (e.g., Resthaven, Peter Grant, Melville)

Parks Use

- » Consider expanding commercial uses in parks to encourage, for example, seasonal food trucks in Beacon and Tulista Parks
- » Review the Use of Public Parks and Facilities policies and consider expanding "enhanced park services"; for example, consider increasing fees for events and use of parks, as well as increasing the availability of and fees for the use of equipment (e.g., kayaks, bikes, tents)
- » Assess current management of and staff resources for special events

Priority Improvements

- » Review of Parks staff and equipment resources
- » Expand the use of native and low-maintenance landscaping throughout the Town
- » Assessment of gateways and 'grey areas' (e.g., Lochside Trail) to improvement management and coordination with other organizations
- » Pilot test the use of raingardens and bioswales



C4. Natural Areas & Urban Forest Management

Overview – Natural Areas

Sidney's predominant natural feature is its coastline – extending the length of the community as its entire eastern boundary. Conversely, with a very limited and mostly developed land base, the Town only has a few significant pockets of natural landscape. While the Town has a number of relevant natural areas policies (e.g., in the Official Community Plan), regulations (e.g., Tree Protection Bylaw), and plans (e.g., 2010 Climate Action Plan), and can look to federal and provincial legislation for some foreshore and riparian area protection, it does not have a comprehensive, action-oriented environmental strategy.

With such limited land area, a primary challenge for managing parks and natural areas in Sidney is balancing recreational demands with environmental protection – while mitigating other impacts, including development and industry. Moreover, with its small, low-lying, and flat land base, the Town must look to mitigating and adapting to the impact of a changing climate and sea-level rise.

This subsection provides high-level guidance for natural areas management, as it relates to public parks, seeking to inform a future environmental strategy.

Natural Areas Management

- » As identified by Council, develop a Sea Level Rise Plan and an Environmental Sustainability Strategy in 2018
- » As part of the above, [a] consider an inventory of environmentally sensitive and significant lands (beyond those areas identified in the OCP), or conduct an environmental overview of each park, to identify areas for restoration or protection; [b] prioritize investment in shoreline restoration and adaptation
- » Work with partners to facilitate and support shoreline cleanups
- » Place a high priority on sustainability and ecological integrity in landscaping and vegetation management, using native plants where possible, especially for restoration of disturbed areas, including riparian and waterfront zones
- » Work with partners to develop environmental interpretive programs, promote volunteerism, and develop educational information, including signs, brochures, and online information
- » In developing off-leash dog areas, consider the impacts on naturalized landscapes and require leashes where necessary to manage impacts

Overview – Urban Forest

Sidney's urban forest not only provides residents with a connection to the natural world but also contributes to individual and community health and well-being. The Town reaps a multitude of ecological 'services' and benefits from its trees, including cleaner air and water, moderated winds and temperatures, healthier watercourses, wildlife habitat, energy savings, a more comfortable and pleasant street environment, calmed traffic, and higher property values. When properly managed, these benefits grow each year with the trees.

The Town does not presently have an urban forest strategy. Beyond the policies and regulations identified on page 64, only the Tree Preservation Bylaw supports Sidney's urban forest.

This subsection seeks to provide high-level guidance in the management of the Town's urban forest. Future initiatives –possibly via an urban forest strategy – are necessary to ensure a comprehensive approach is taken in the future.

Urban Forest Management

- » Increase the focus on enhancing the Town's urban forest through plantings in local parks and mitigation efforts during development processes – ensure sufficient operational funding and staff resources
- » Develop an urban forest strategy to include the following:
 - » Conduct an assessment of existing parks and identify priority areas for additional tree plantings based on visitor (e.g., shade trees) and ecological needs (e.g., native trees); set priorities for short-term plantings (i.e., from parks operational budget) and longer-term plantings (i.e., from replacement trees through the development process or larger natural area restoration efforts)
 - » Consider conducting an inventory of existing trees or existing tree covers and setting an ambitious planting target to be achieved over a 5 to 10 year period
 - » Develop a Boulevard Tree Policy or Program, including guiding principles, approved species, and replacement plans; consider a program similar to the District of Saanich, whereby parks staff supply and plant the tree and residents are responsible for watering

Priority Improvements

- » Develop a dedicated Sea-level Rise Plan and a Environmental Sustainability Plan
 - » Identify key areas beyond ESAs to prioritize for restoration and protection
 - » Work with community partners to organize and facilitate shoreline cleanups
 - » Invest in shoreline restoration and sea-level rise adaptation initiatives
 - » Develop a urban forest strategy, including priority areas for plantings in public parks
 - » Increase funding and resources for tree planting in local parks and public spaces
 - » Develop a Boulevard Tree Program
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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

D1 Chapter Overview

This chapter provides an implementation strategy for the PMP, with a focus on capital planning over the next 15-20 years. Inside, you will find...

- » Key notes regarding a strategic approach to plan implementation;
- » A set of priority recommendations, which serves to focus and refine the Town's key park improvements and next steps; and,
- » A phased implementation plan, which sets out clear actions and initiatives for the Town to budget for and undertake over the coming years.



D2. Strategic Approach

While parks and natural areas are already vital contributors to the high quality of life in Sidney, the Town must make a renewed commitment to outstanding parks management, operations, and improvements in order to respond to increased staff and resources demands, changing demographic and use trends, increased population, and aging infrastructure and amenities

To be successful, this commitment must be founded in a strategic approach to implementation. Such an approach should involve the following:

First, build on successes in the creation of vibrant community hubs. For example, the new skate park in Tulista is heavily used; it could be built on with complementary improvements, such as seating, tables, and weather protection and complementary activities (e.g., parkour, zip line)

Second, undertake dedicated planning processes to create a new vision and clear direction for key yet underutilized parks (e.g., Resthaven). Consider innovative project approaches to expedite these processes

Third, view Sidney's parks as – among other things – key community gathering spaces. In particular, give due value to small, underutilized parks that can serve as communal 'yards' – play areas, picnic spaces, and gardens – especially as development increases demand on public spaces

Finally, experiment with new directions that can – if successful – aid in the creation of new identity for Sidney's parks by developing a 'menu' of park amenities and features. For example, integrated stormwater management features (e.g., raingarden, bioswale), natural playgrounds for all ages.



D3. Primary Recommendations

This set of Primary Recommendations represents the key, refined set of actions and next steps that the Town should prioritize when implementing the PMP. Below, you will find a brief description of the recommendation along with a reference to the relevant page number in Section B, for more details.

- A. Review parks staff and equipment resources (p.64)
- B. Establish short-term moorage in downtown waterfront area (p.55)
- C. Establish designated kayak launch location(s) and related long-term parking options (p.55)
- D. Evaluate all beach accesses to determine level of accessibility, priority improvements, and possible classification system (p.55)
- E. Assess all gateways and 'grey' areas to improve co-ordination and standard of landscaping (p.65)
- F. Identify priority park areas for new tree plantings – ensure adequate funding and staff resources (p.67)
- G. Work with MOTI and make improvements to the West Side highway path (p.57)
- H. Upgrade bollards, chains, and lights in the downtown waterfront area, including Beacon and Seaport Parks (p.20, 48)
- I. Work with North Saanich to make Rotary Park upgrades (p.47)
- J. Conduct a dedicated planning process for Rathdown Park, with a focus on improved and additional amenities (p.40)
- K. Conduct a dedicated planning process for Brethour Park, with a focus on alternative recreation – e.g., bike track (p.25)
- L. Conduct a dedicated planning process for Resthaven Park, with a focus on creating a feature waterfront park (p.45)



- M.** Conduct a dedicated planning process for Reay Creek Park, with a focus on environmental management (p.42)
- N.** Identify locations to develop a central downtown public space (plaza), such as on Fourth Street north of Beacon (p.59)
- O.** Develop more and improved playgrounds throughout the community, such as at Beaver, Boulder, Melissa, and Melville Parks (p.59)
- P.** Develop more recreational features for older children, youth, and adults – such as parkour or calisthenics equipment, a bike skills park, or a disc golf course (p.59)
- Q.** Replace waterfront hedge at Eastview with viewing platform (p.27)
- R.** Remediate the orchard area at Iroquois Park with preference for new covered picnic area and/or natural playscape (p.31)
- S.** Investigate the viability of creek restoration at Melville Park (p.36)
- T.** Evaluate and upgrade the lower path at Lochside Waterfront Park (p.33)
- U.** Improve access to Glass Beach (p.29)
- V.** Work with local pickleball groups to identify an ideal location and facility in Sidney, with consideration for Resthaven, Rathdown, and Beaver Parks, among others.

D4. Implementation Plan: On-Going and Short-term Actions

On-going actions may be completed over time as part of the Town of Sidney's (TOS) regular operations or addressed opportunistically, as funds or partnerships become available. Short-term actions represent 'low-hanging fruit' that are recommended for capital budget funding in the near future.

- x on-going actions
- x short-term actions (0-3 years)

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY
A Individual Park Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to use capital budgeting to fund priority improvements for individual parks over time, with priority given to those areas identified the Primary Recommendations on page 68. » Ensure more and improved playgrounds – e.g., Beaver, Boulder, Melissa, and Melville. » Ensure more opportunities for older children, youth, and adults to be physically active in parks. 	High
B Downtown Waterfront Improvements & Short-term Moorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Town to undertake upgrades to – at minimum – bollards, chains, and lights in the Beacon Park / Downtown Waterfront area, as either an independent project or park of a larger downtown waterfront initiative (e.g., wharf redevelopment). » Similarly, TOS staff to identify a preferred location and establish short-term moorage in the Downtown Waterfront area (e.g., adjacent to Beacon Park or Seaport Park). 	High
C Gateway and Grey Area Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to undertake an internal review of all primary gateway, secondary gateway, and 'grey areas' to [a] improve coordination and communication with other organization and [b] ensure a high standard of landscaping and maintenance. 	Medium
D Central Downtown Public Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to identify recommend options for a central downtown public space (e.g., plaza), with consideration given to Fourth Street north of Beacon Avenue. 	Medium
A Parks Staff and Resources Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to conduct a review of Parks staff and resources (e.g., equipment) capacity. 	High
B Establish Dedicated Kayak Launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to identify recommended locations for one or more dedicated paddlecraft launch sites, including options for long-term parking (6-24 hours via parking restriction change or special permit). 	High
C West Side Path Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to coordinate with MOTI to upgrade the path on the West Side of Highway 17, informed by direction provided in the West Side Local Area Plan. 	High
D Beach Access Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to undertake a review of all beach accesses for existing conditions, level of accessibility, and potential improvements » Once completed, staff to present recommended next steps to Council regarding priority improvements, classification system, improved signage, etc. 	Medium
E Waterfront Hedge at Eastview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to develop design for a viewing platform or similar to replace the waterfront hedge at Eastview Park. See Downtown Waterfront Vision for guidance. 	Medium
F Iroquois Orchard Area Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff investigate remediation of the orchard area at Iroquois Park to determine recommended next steps. Preference should be given to a new covered picnic area and/or natural playscape as future amenities in the area. 	Medium

Implementation Plan: Medium- and Long-term Actions

Medium- and long-term actions are to be pursued over time and will require a commitment from future Councils to undertake subsequent planning processes and/or invest in enhanced community and natural areas.

x medium- and long-term actions (3+ years)

ACTIONS		DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY
A	Plan for Rathdown, Resthaven, and Brethour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to recommend preferred approach to a planning processes for Rath-down, Resthaven, and Brethour Parks (with possible combined process). » TOS to develop plans, designs, and priority improvements. 	High
B	Plan for Reay Creek	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS staff to work with community members to establish scope of a new park plan for Reay Creek (e.g., park management plan), with a focus on ecological restoration and maintenance. 	High
C	Improve Access to Glass Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to investigate Glass Beach restoration priorities, with a focus on improved access from stairways (redesign) and from the bottom of Beacon (e.g., accessible ramp). 	High
D	Priority Tree Planting Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to identify priority areas for planting native tree species, with the intent of maintaining and enhancing the urban forest / tree canopy. 	Medium
E	Rotary Park Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Work with North Saanich o make needed improvements to Rotary Park. 	Medium
F	Evaluate and upgrade the lower path at Lochside Waterfront Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to evaluate the lower path and determine needed improvements for accessibility and recreation, along with high-level cost estimates. » TOS to consult with community on priority improvements. 	Medium
F	Viability of Melville Creek Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » TOS to consult outside expertize on the feasibility and value of restoring and naturalizing Melville Creek within Melville Park. 	Low

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TOWN OF SIDNEY
PARKS MASTER PLAN



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