



AGENDA
PARKS, RECREATION, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 23, 2018, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Board Room, Service and Resource Centre,
411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC

Pages

1. CALL THE MEETING OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE TO ORDER:

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

a. Minutes

3 - 6

Minutes of the Parks, Rec and Wellness Meeting held in the Board Room, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2018-APR-25 at 5:30 p.m.

5. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Aquatic Program Overview

Laara Clarkson, Manager, Aquatics, and Damon Johnston, Assistant Manager of Aquatics, to provide a presentation regarding aquatics programming.

6. REPORTS:

a. Pilot Park Site for Model Airs

7 - 14

To be introduced by Richard Harding, Director, Parks and Recreation.

Purpose: To introduce the concept of a pilot airspace for the safe flying of model aircraft in a City of Nanaimo Park(s).

Delegation:

1. Leo Katila and William Rollins with Nanaimo Model Airs Club

Recommendations: That the Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council endorse:

- a. Staff to work with the Nanaimo Model Airs Club to explore suitable

locations for use of Model Aircraft; and,

- b. Undertaking a park planning process for East Wellington Park to determine appropriate land use strategies for the site including the exploration of a pilot site for the Model Airs.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:**

8. **QUESTION PERIOD:**

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

MINUTES
PARKS, RECREATION AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE
411 DUNSMUIR STREET, NANAIMO, BC
WEDNESDAY 2018-APR-25, AT 5:30 P.M.

Members: Councillor I. Thorpe, Chair
Tyler Fraser
Trevor Heshka
Howard Houle
Gabby Lent
Alec McPherson (vacated 6:15 p.m.)
Ken Milne
Tracy Vandermolen
Maureen Young

Absent: Councillor W. Bestwick
Julie Buisman
Marsha Down
Daniel McVicar
Mark Swain
Calvin Tant

Staff: R. Harding, Director, Parks and Recreation
K. MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner
B. Zurek, Planner
J. Vanderhoef, Recording Secretary

1. CALL THE PARKS, RECREATION AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE MEETING TO ORDER:

The Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS:

(a) Councillor Thorpe requested that the Agenda be reordered as follows:

- 4(a) Cambie Neighbourhood Park Improvement Request under the Partners in the Parks Program
- 4(b) 2018 Strategic Directions
- 4(c) Draft Hospital Area Plan

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

It was moved and seconded that the Agenda, as amended, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

4. REPORTS:

(a) Cambie Neighbourhood Park Improvement Request under the Partners in Parks Program

Introduced by Richard Harding, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Presentation:

Kirsty MacDonald, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided an overview of the Partners in Parks Program and spoke regarding the following:

- current developments in the Cambie neighbourhood;
- Staff have been working with the Cambie neighbourhood to develop a plan for the Cambie Neighbourhood Park;
- there is a higher percentage of older children in the neighbourhood which has motivated the request for a sport court prior to building a playground; and,
- the neighbourhood is requesting \$25,000 to complete phase one of their proposal.

Delegation:

Jocelyn Dewar, Representative of the Cambie Neighbourhood Park Development Committee, provided the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee with a park proposal, which included:

- the neighbourhood needs a safe space for kids to play;
- the neighbourhood kids were questioned about what they would like to see built and have requested a sport court;
- this community hosts events and would like to have a space to meet and host their events;
- the first phase of the plan is to construct a sport court, notice board, perimeter fencing, install trashcans, irrigation, benches; and,
- second phase of the plan will include swings and a playground.

Committee discussion took place regarding:

- Knowles Estate Reserve Fund as a possible funding option for the proposal;
- the current funding request is limited to the sport court;
- what expenses are anticipated for building the sport court;
- recently these types of requests have been going directly to Council; and,
- the new Linley Valley Park official opening on June 9th.

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council allocate \$25,000 from the 2018 Partner In Parks Program for Cambie Neighbourhood Park improvements. The motion carried unanimously.

(b) 2018 Strategic Directions

It was moved and seconded that the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council approve the following 2018 Strategic Directions:

1. Maffeo Sutton Park Improvement Plan
2. Recreation Software Update to Perfect Mind
3. The Youth Health Hub Project – Partnership with Island Health/VIU/SD68
4. Linley Valley Park Plan
5. Westwood Lake Improvement Plan
6. Serauxmen Stadium Improvement Plan
7. Caledonia Stadium Improvements
8. Leadership in Asset Management Program (LAMP) with Parks Operations

The motion carried unanimously.

(c) Draft Hospital Area Plan

Brian Zurek, Planner, Community & Cultural Planning, provided a presentation regarding the Draft Hospital Area Plan which included:

- an explanation of the process for adoption of the Draft Hospital Area Plan;
- the boundaries of the hospital area;
- the various Official Community Plan (OCP) zones within the hospital area;
- land use planning and policies;
- transportation and infrastructure policies meant to address improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks and prioritize capital projects going forward;
- open space and connectivity policies meant to reclaim accesses to Beaufort Park and improve the hospital area open spaces; and,
- improving urban design and street character.

Committee discussion took place regarding parking issues in the hospital area and the scale of buildings that have been developed there recently.

Brian Zurek, Planner, Community & Cultural Planning, responded explaining that parking issues are being reviewed by other Staff members, and that the recent developments within this area conform with the OCP and are considered appropriate for this area.

Alec McPherson vacated the Boardroom at 6:15 p.m.

Brian Zurek, Planner, Community & Cultural Planning, continued his presentation and spoke regarding the following:

- proposed wellness walk around the perimeter of the hospital area;
- various infrastructure upgrades planned for Beaufort Park;
- only 2 of the 8 access points to Beaufort Park are cleared at the moment;
- improving mobility by increasing bike lanes;
- proposed improvements to street layouts with increased greenery;

- a parking strategy is being prepared to manage the current issues; and,
- parking policies could be approved to implement charges that could cover costs for future projects.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the Parks, Recreation and Wellness Committee Meeting held in the Boardroom, Service and Resource Centre, 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC, on Wednesday, 2018-MAR-28 at 5:30 p.m. be adopted as circulated. The motion carried unanimously.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved and seconded at 6:26 p.m. that the meeting terminate. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CORPORATE OFFICER

DATE OF MEETING | MAY 23, 2018 |

AUTHORED BY | KIRSTY MACDONALD, PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNER |

**SUBJECT PILOT PARK SITE FOR NANAIMO MODEL AIRS RADIO CONTROL
FLYING CLUB**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To introduce the concept of a pilot airspace for the safe flying of model aircraft in a City of Nanaimo park(s).

Recommendation

That the Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council endorse:

- (a) Staff to work with the Nanaimo Model Airs Club to explore suitable locations for use of Model Aircraft; and,
- (b) Undertaking a park planning process for East Wellington Park to determine appropriate land use strategies for the site including the exploration of a pilot site for the Model Airs.

BACKGROUND

The flying of model aircraft and drones is a popular activity. Currently there are all kinds of model aircraft flying within the city limits and many within parks. Some fly in accordance with federal legislation and respect of public safety and some do not. Although the planes of the past had loud engines, today with advancing technologies, members fly electric powered models. These are very quiet and produce zero emissions.

The Nanaimo Model-Airs Radio Control Flying Club (Nanaimo Model Airs) represent several of the local model aircraft flyers. The group approached the City of Nanaimo in the fall of 2017 to create a safe model aircraft flying site at a City of Nanaimo Park. Their goal is to have one or two designated park sites for flying with a use agreement between the City and the Model Airs. Members who join the group could then fly in accordance to the agreement and be covered under the Model Airs liability insurance.

Legislation for Flying Aircraft

Radio controlled model airplanes flying in Canada is regulated by Transport Canada. The Nanaimo Model-Airs operate in full compliance of all Transport Canada Regulations and Interim Orders respecting the use of model airplanes. Operating a model airplane flying in a field is also in compliance with secondary land use regulations for Agricultural Land Reserve use in British Columbia.

Municipalities in British Columbia with Flying Agreements

Several municipalities in British Columbia have agreements with aircraft clubs on public property. The details vary with each location, but the sport is growing in popularity across the province. The table below summarizes some precedent agreements.

Municipality	Agreement with	Agreement location	Details of the agreement on public property
City of Burnaby	Burnaby Lake "Hoods Up Flyers"	Burnaby Lake Park East Sports Plex Fields 3,4,5,6	Booked times for the clubs and casual time when the field is not booked. Schedules are posted online.
City of Coquitlam	West Coast Radio Controlled Aircraft Flyers	Upper Coquitlam River Park on Pipeline Road	7 days a week
City of North Vancouver	North Vancouver Radio Controlled Flying Club	Inter River Park	Booked times are visible online
City of Richmond	Richmond RC Flyers	Manoah Steves Elementary School	Specific times and rules on one field

Desirable Sites for Flying

Ideal sites for aircraft flying have an open character and satisfy all Transport Canada requirements in respect to distance from an Aerodrome and populated areas. Long term, the Model Airs would like to have a mowed runway for use (500 feet by 50 feet). This site would have to be situated well away from cars, roads, water bodies and heavy pedestrian traffic areas.

Staff have identified a few sites which may be appropriate for flying. Some sport fields, as well as East Wellington Park, meet the Model Airs needs and could be tested on a trial basis in the future.

East Wellington Park

East Wellington Park is a 12.7 hectare property located at 2191 East Wellington Road. The property is zoned PRC-1 Nature Park and lies within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). The property became park in 2014 when the City of Nanaimo entered into a land exchange in order to expand the Millstone Greenway. Under the land exchange agreement, the City transferred 4.5 acres of land from a City-owned parcel at 155 Westwood Road in exchange for this property. **Schedule A** outlines the park location.

The property has an irregular shape and is confined between the Millstone River on the south and a vegetated rocky escarpment to the northeast. The property falls within the floodplain of the Millstone River and seasonally floods. The property is classified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)—seasonally flooded Agricultural Field on the City of Nanaimo’s Habitat Atlas. The property was historically used as an agricultural field to grow hay and has annually been hayed since becoming a park. .

In 2011, a biophysical analysis of the property was performed by Chatwin Engineering. The inventory identifies the likely presence of several red and blue-listed species of birds on the site. The report also identifies key features for avian and aquatic habitat including a ditch with seasonally inundated ponded areas, forested areas, comprised of mixed stands of mature trees with several Douglas fir and thick shrub understories and the Millstone River. The report makes recommendations for a number of environmental improvements to the site and boardwalk and trail systems.

Sewer upgrades on Maxey Road were completed by the City of Nanaimo in 2017. This sewer upgrade project also improved a small parking area on East Wellington Road for the park. **Schedule B** depicts the park in its current condition and the new parking area. More sewer upgrades are planned within the park in 2020. After the work is completed, construction of a 1 km soft surface trail along the length of the property will help to connect this park into a larger Millstone Greenway trail network. (**Schedule C**)

Model Airs Club Pilot Concept at East Wellington Park

East Wellington Park has a large flat open character. It is zoned PRC-1 Nature Park, which allows for recreation and educational uses that are compatible with the natural features of the park, such as use of the air space above the field by aircraft. The property is currently open for public use but has remained undeveloped. A sign is posted at the park introduces the park as a Nature Park with no formal developed trails. It also explains that there will be future planning to define a long-term vision of the site. The park is currently used on an ad hoc basis by pedestrians, dog walkers, birders, flyers of model airplanes, and astronomy enthusiasts.

Undertaking a public engagement and land use planning process at East Wellington Park could further explore the concept of a use agreement between the Model Airs and City of Nanaimo at the site. The proposed land use planning process is as follows:

Stage 1—Review Existing Conditions (May 2018)

- Develop base maps and surveys of the site
- Review Biophysical assessments

Stage 2: Assess Priorities for Park Use and Improvements (June/July 2018)

- Meet with stakeholder groups to discuss park issues and land use strategy ideas (astronomy club, neighbours, dog walkers, Nanaimo Model Airs and others);
- Hire a Qualified Environmental Professional to review the 2011 biophysical inventory and potential impacts to the site by various park users;
- Hold Public public input session #1 on site;
- Administer public survey regarding park uses and desired visions and strategies;

- Construct a portion of the City website as a communications forum for planning documents and surveys as well as using radio, face book, twitter, and newspaper and site signs for communication about the process.

Stage 3—Plan Preparation (July/August 2018)

- Assess survey results, stakeholder input, and expert reports;
- Draft park vision and improvement plan prepared based on input and site opportunities and constraints;
- Consider a pilot project for the Nanaimo Model Airs at the East Wellington site as part of the assessing and plan development;
- Present draft plan to Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee and Council for review and approval to have the draft plan reviewed by the public.

Stage 4—Plan Review and Adoption (August/September 2018)

- Present draft park vision and land use strategy to the public and stakeholders for review and input at Open House #2 (plus social media website, facebook, twitter, draft plan displayed at the Park and Recreation Centres.)
- From public review, update and present the final land use strategy to the Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee for approval and forwarding on to City Council for consideration.

OPTIONS

1. That the Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee recommend that Council endorse:
 - (a) Staff to work with the Nanaimo Model Airs to explore suitable locations for use of Model Aircraft;
 - (b) Undertaking a park planning process for East Wellington Park to determine appropriate land use strategies for the site including the exploration of a pilot site for the Nanaimo Model Airs.
 - **Budget Implication:** The planning process for the park is not in the budget plan for 2018, but was part of the five-year budget plan. Costs to move the process up can be covered from operating accounts in 2018.
 - **Legal Implication:** Federal guidelines for the flying of aircraft will be followed in consideration of all sites.
 - **Policy Implication:** Local bylaws will require updating long term if a pilot and/or permanent site for aircraft is established.
 - **Engagement Implication:** Public engagement about potential sites has not begun. Engagement will occur as part of the planning process. Staff have met with the Model Airs to discuss their needs.

2. That the Parks Recreation and Wellness Committee not recommend that Council endorse:

- **Budget Implication:** No cost to the City of Nanaimo in 2018.
- **Engagement Implication:** The Nanaimo Model Airs Club will still want to work with Staff to determine a suitable location for their club in Nanaimo. Long term planning for East Wellington Park will still have to be carried out at a future date.

SUMMARY POINTS

- The Nanaimo Model Airs are seeking a site to fly aircraft within the City limits
- East Wellington Park is an undeveloped, low-use, seasonally flooded, nature park in central Nanaimo that might be an appropriate site for the Nanaimo Model Airs. Public engagement and a land use planning process could be undertaken to explore use of East Wellington Park as a pilot flying site.
- Other City parks and fields could also be explored as appropriate locations for flying.

ATTACHMENTS

Schedule A-East Wellington Park location and Context

Schedule B-Images of East Wellington Park

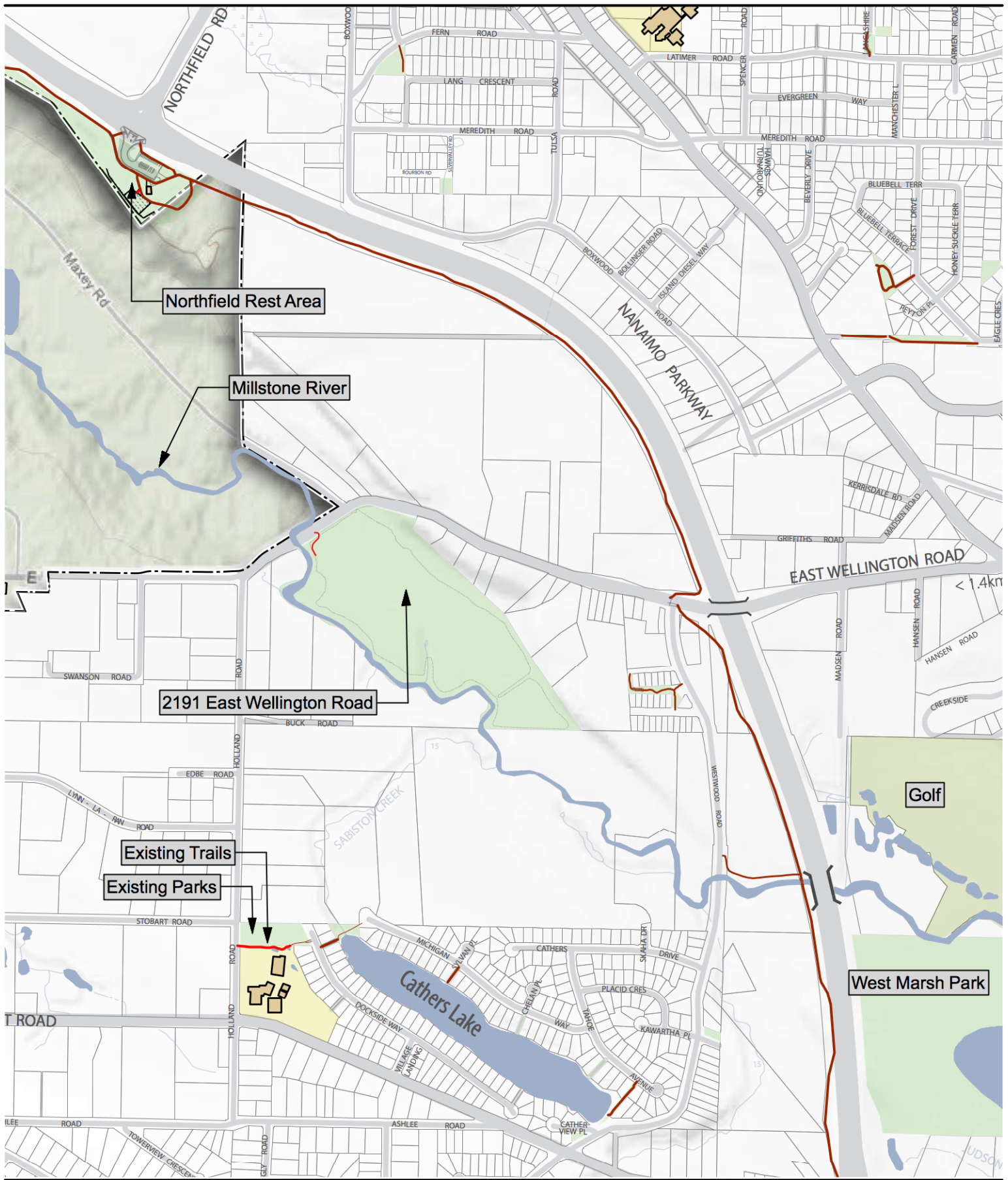
Schedule C-East Wellington Park site features

Submitted by:

Kirsty MacDonald
Parks and Open Space Planner

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation



Schedule B—Images of East Wellington Park



View across the open character of East Wellington Park (taken May 2018).



New parking area and park access off East Wellington Road. Parking area was created through utility upgrades in fall 2017.



View of the entrance signage at East Wellington Park.

