

DATE OF MEETING | MARCH 25, 2019

AUTHORED BY | RICHARD HARDING, DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION

**SUBJECT | ROTARY CENTENNIAL GARDEN PROPOSAL FOR MAFFEO
SUTTON PARK**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide information regarding the Rotary Centennial Garden project in Maffeo Sutton Park.

Recommendation

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:

1. approve the Rotary Centennial Garden for Maffeo Sutton Park as presented and that the garden be funded by the Rotarians;
2. amend the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan to add the Centennial Garden project to 2019 for the \$200,000, fully funded by private contribution; and,
3. direct Staff to project manage the construction of Centennial Garden in coordination with the Rotarians for opening by 2020-MAY-01.

BACKGROUND

Nanaimo Rotarians have a long history of improving local parks and facilities. Since 1920, Nanaimo Rotarians have assisted in the building and funding of projects throughout Nanaimo including a number of large-scale projects as well as the development of Bowen Park, Rotary Bowl and track, gateways to Nanaimo, Rotary Fieldhouse on Third Street, and the Northfield Rest Stop and picnic areas (now the tourism visitor centre).

Nanaimo Rotarians contacted Staff in 2016 to brainstorm ideas for a new project on the Nanaimo waterfront that potentially could be implemented for the club's 100th anniversary in 2020. Staff suggested that projects in Maffeo Sutton Park may be a good fit as part of the ongoing improvement planning for this destination park. The Nanaimo Rotary Club hired external consultants to help articulate their ideas for a legacy project.

In November 2017, Nanaimo Rotary and the Child Development Centre made a presentation to Council supporting the Draft Maffeo Sutton Park Improvement Plan. Nanaimo Rotary was especially interested in creating a contemplation area to acknowledge their 100 years in Nanaimo.

The following motion was passed at the Committee of the Whole Meeting on 2017-NOV-27:

“It was moved and seconded that Council direct Staff to work with the Nanaimo Child Development Centre, Rotary Club of Nanaimo, and partners, to develop a plan for the Maffeo Sutton Park playground that is all-inclusive.”

Staff have continued to do this work and Phase 1 of the inclusive playground is expected to be constructed in the fall of 2019.

While the Nanaimo Rotary support the inclusive playground project in principal, their focus site for Rotary recognition and contemplation project has now moved to a proposed site adjacent to the playground (Attachment A).

This location at the northeast corner of Maffeo Sutton Park is currently an open green space and is under utilized by formal events or programming in the park.

The Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update shows it remaining an informal open space that can be used for informal use and visual greenspace. This location is a key corner for vantage points of the harbour and increased access to the water's edge. The Nanaimo Rotary Club's plans are consistent with these principals.

As the project developed in 2018, it became clear that a collaborative project with the Nanaimo Rotary Club and the City of Nanaimo in this location would improve the park for everyone. It would also integrate well into the City's goals of improving the perimeter paved Waterfront Walkway trail in this location which is in need of repaving and improvements to drainage.

The Rotarians would like to donate \$200,000 to the City of Nanaimo in order to implement their proposal of a contemplation and peace garden in Maffeo Sutton Park. The overall concept is estimated at \$200,000. If approved in concept and through budgeting processes, the project would then be managed by the City of Nanaimo in the 2020 Capital planning cycle. The projected opening date of this project is 2020-MAY-01.]

OPTIONS

Option 1

That the Committee of the Whole recommend that Council:

1. approve the Rotary Centennial Garden for Maffeo Sutton Park as presented and that the garden be funded by the Rotarians;
2. amend the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan to add the Centennial Garden project to 2019 for the \$200,000, fully funded by private contribution; and,
3. direct Staff to project manage the construction of Centennial Garden in coordination with the Rotarians for opening by May 1, 2020.
 - **Budget Implication:** All funds are private contributions for this project and total \$200,000. The Rotary Club will be sending a letter to confirm the funds are in place.

- **Policy Implication:** Continued community partnerships with groups like the Nanaimo Rotary clubs are supported in numerous policy documents. The work is consistent with the Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update. The City will be providing the land and will manage the project while development of the adjacent playground is underway.
- **Engagement Implication:** Public engagement regarding the overall park improvements has been carried out under the Maffeo Sutton Park Master Plan Update process. The details of this proposal are consistent with the overall plan goals and engagement work to date. The specifics of this proposal have been developed through the Nanaimo Rotary Clubs but have not been shared with the general public.

Option 2. That The Committee of the Whole recommend that Council not support the collaborative proposal between the Nanaimo Rotary Clubs and City of Nanaimo.

- **Budget Implication:** Budgets for 2020 will not change, however, Waterfront Walkway maintenance improvements of the perimeter walkway will still have to be completed in the near future.
- **Policy Implication:** Not supporting the project may affect future partnerships with community groups like the Nanaimo Rotary.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Rotary Clubs in Nanaimo have a long history of completing projects in parks.
- Rotary is celebrating their 100th anniversary in Nanaimo in 2020.
- Nanaimo Rotarians are interested in marking their 100th year anniversary through a legacy project in Maffeo Sutton Park. If accepted, this project would equate to a donation of \$200,000 of improvements to the northeast corner of Maffeo Sutton Park
- The Rotary Club would provide all funding for the project and City Staff would be responsible for project management.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Location of Rotary Club Proposal

Attachment B - Landscape Plans for the Centennial Garden in Maffeo Sutton Park

Attachment C – Correspondence from the Rotary Club regarding funding.

Submitted by:

Kirsty MacDonald
Parks and Open Space Planner

Concurrence by:

Richard Harding
Director, Parks and Recreation