

ATTACHMENT B



NANAIMO
ASTRONOMY
SOCIETY

Chris Boar - President Nanaimo Astronomy Society,
1774 Montana Road,
Nanaimo, B.C, V9X 1C7.
4th August, 2019.

To Nanaimo Parks & Recreation, & Culture Dept.

The Nanaimo Astronomy Society (NAS) is writing to express our interest in a partnership with Nanaimo Parks & Recreation in establishing a park area dedicated to public night time astronomy viewing and outreach/education.

NAS is a non profit registered BC Society, which averages around 60-80 members per year. We meet monthly, hosting presentations from Professional astronomers. In addition we run public outreach/viewing sessions in Nanaimo, as well as on request group outreach, e.g. schools, girl guides, etc.

NAS has a long term objective of establishing a 'Star Park' in Nanaimo. This would be an area publicly accessible 24/7, with minimal light pollution, allowing public enjoyment of the night sky, along with smaller (less than 20 people) public outreach groups run by NAS as required.

NAS has kept in regular contact with the Parks & Recreation Dept over the last 3 years, keeping our objective in mind, to identify a suitable location for a Star Park. The new East Wellington park development is ideal for our needs. Primarily due to; large open sky, minimal light pollution, and 24/7 access.

We envisage the Star Park to be fairly compact and simple. E.g. a couple of benches facing South, some information boards about the night sky, and ideally a concrete pad (at least 6x6) for telescope use during Public outreach. Additional 'nice to have' would be some sort of shielding (fence/vegetation) to block the view of the parking lot street lighting from the Star Park area, as well as astronomy themed artwork.

Once the Star Park is established, NAS would then like to pursue and gain the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada 'Urban Star Park' (USP) designation. See https://www.rasc.ca/sites/default/files/RASC_PRESERVE_APPLICATION_REQUIREMENTS_2018_0.pdf

NAS believes this designation would be a 'feather in the cap' for the City of Nanaimo as there are very few Canadian USP's.

NAS looks forward to working with Parks & Recreation to make our vision a reality.

Best Regards,

Chris Boar
President, Nanaimo Astronomy Society.