


The Site

- 12.7 ha in size
- Acquired in 2014
- Next to Millstone River
- Seasonally flooded
- In Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR)
- Environmentally sensitive
- Future site of Millstone Sewer Trunk expansion



CITY OF NANAIMO
THE HARBOUR CITY

Planning Process to Date

- Public consultation (survey and open house)
- Stakeholder consultation
- Environmental assessments



Goal 1: Environmental Conservation and Restoration

- Park provides important riparian and seasonally flooded open field habitat
- Opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife habitat values along the Millstone River
- Create restoration opportunities that combine agriculture and ecological restoration



Goal 2: Agricultural Production

- East Wellington Park is in the Agricultural Land Reserve
- Facilitate ecologically sensitive agriculture and horticulture opportunities within the park
- Collaborate with other agencies and community groups including:
 - Vancouver Island University
 - Nanaimo Foodshare



Goal 3: Support Astronomy Activities

- Nanaimo Astronomy Society (NAS) currently uses the park for night sky viewing.
- Opportunities to add modest astronomy amenities
- Opportunity to pursue an “Urban Star Park” designation for East Wellington Park through the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

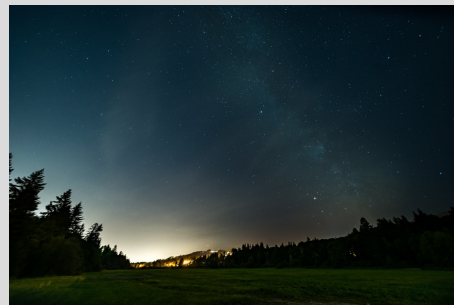


Photo Source: Chris Boar, Nanaimo Astronomy Society

Goal 4: Support Education and Research

- East Wellington Park offers opportunities for education and research that blends agricultural activity with environmental conservation and restoration
- Vancouver Island University's (VIU) G.R. Paine Centre is located nearby, and community-based experiential learning is supported by VIU's Academic Plan
- VIU, Nanaimo Food Share, and Nanaimo Astronomy Society have expressed interest in collaborating on education and research



Goal 5: Accommodate Dog Walking

- Support dog walking that balances the public desire to see more dog friendly parks with the need to respect the agricultural and environmental sensitivities of the site.
- Mitigate potential conflicts between dogs, other park users, wildlife, and sensitive habitat areas.



Goal 6: Improve Park Access and Amenities

- Facilitate year-round park access
- Improve accessibility
- Facilitate and enhance nature appreciation

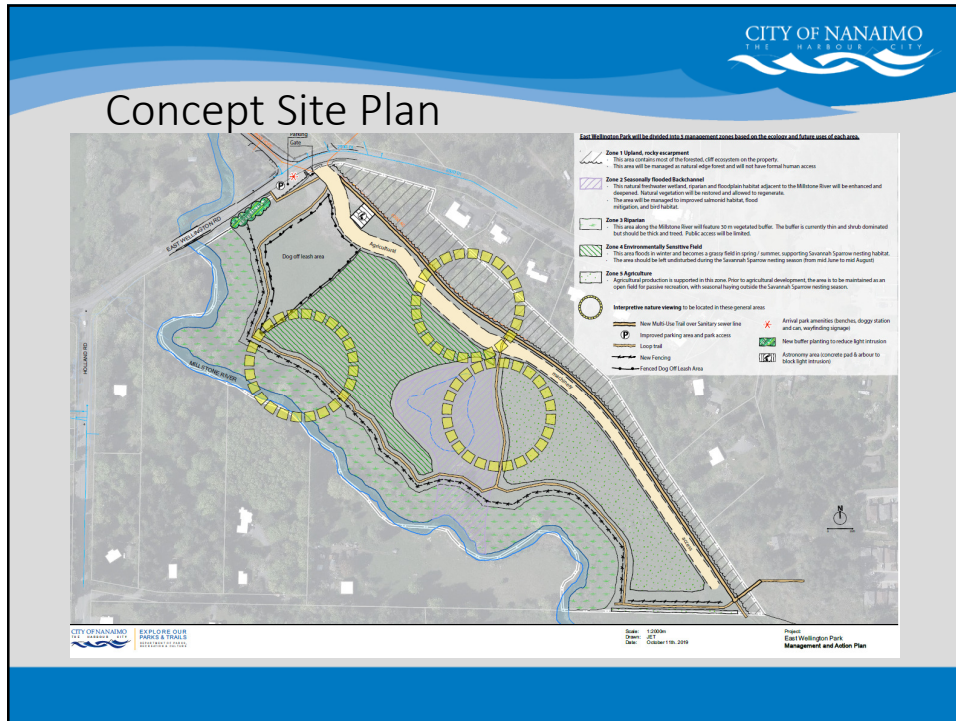


Implementation Schedule

- Includes short, medium and long-term implementation actions

#	Implementation Action	Corresponding Plan Goals and Objectives	Timing	Responsible Parties	Budget Implications (not incl staff time)	Ongoing Park Maintenance Implications
Long Term Actions						
15	Develop the site for agricultural production	Goal 2	2020- ongoing	Vancouver Island University; Nanaimo Food Share; other community groups; CoN Parks and Recreation	Site works and servicing, to be determined	Moderate
16	Install interpretive signage related to the agricultural uses	Goal 4 (a)(i)	Following development of agricultural use	CoN Parks and Recreation; agricultural users	Sign materials; graphic design	Minor
17	Develop astronomy area(s)	Goal 3 (a)(i-ii)	2023	Nanaimo Astronomy Club; CoN Parks and Recreation	Paving materials; arbour construction and materials	Moderate

(Plan excerpt)



Recommendation (Next Steps)

That Council direct Staff to:

- Hold an open house at the park and post the draft East Wellington Park Management and Action Plan to the City of Nanaimo’s website to gather public input;
- Submit a non-farm use application to the Agricultural Land Reserve for park development; and,
- Report back to Council with the final draft plan.