

# Parks, Recreation & Culture



## *Review of Fees and Charges*

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## Agenda

- Mission Statement & Goals of Parks, Recreation & Culture
- National Recreation Summit
- Rationale/philosophy for fees and charges in the delivery of Parks, Recreation and Culture Services
- Areas where fees and charges are applied and relationship to age groups and type of organization
- Other considerations for fees, including accessibility for economically disadvantaged
- Discussion/input for moving forward with updated bylaw

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# Mission Statement

**"The mission of Parks, Recreation and Culture is to enhance the quality of life and leisure in Nanaimo."**

## Department Goals

- To be aware of the developing leisure requirements of our community.
- To be innovative and responsive in leading or facilitating the delivery of services that meets the needs of our community.
- To establish and maintain a system of services, facilities, parks and open spaces that meets the needs of our community.
- To provide services and facilities that are safe, accessible and fun.
- To be active in fostering Nanaimo as a healthy community.
- To market our services, facilities, parks and open spaces to Nanaimo residents and then to visitors.
- To seek efficiencies that maximize taxpayer benefit and to maintain a net operating cost that meets the City's 5 year Financial Plan.

## The 2005 Master Plan

- City should focus itself on services where there is demonstrated public good
- Work with and through other sectors where viable
- Provide services at all skill levels with emphasis on basic levels and variety
- Balance quality with quantity
- Reduce barriers to access

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## The Community Parks, Recreation and Culture System

- Municipal Parks, Recreation and Culture
- Societies and Organizations (The Port Theatre, Minor Hockey, Art Gallery)
- Other Public Institutions (SD68, VIU, Island Health)
- Private Sector (program, tourism, private clubs, retail)

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## National Recreation Summit

- First significant national gathering
- Focused on building a preferred future for the field
- Five themes presented:
  - Confronting Canada's public health crisis
  - Respecting nature and our environment
  - Being community
  - Social innovation in community recreation and sport
  - Repositioning recreation

*(Published in 2015)*

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## Key Areas of Focus in Future

- **Recreation as an Essential Public Good** - works with others to affect health, social and personal needs and community vitality
- **Part of Quality of Life Sector** - connects to health, education, social services, justice and others
- **Community at the Core** - engage in citizen and community building
- **Access to recreation** - vital to all
- **Connect people** - to nature and the environment



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## Benefits Based Approach

**The Key Challenge:** to differentiate between personal direct benefits to the individual and indirect benefits to all citizens



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## Benefits & Costs Approach to the Provision of Parks, Recreation & Culture Rates & Fees:



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*"Fees should be charged when the service or facility being provided is enjoyed by a limited user group rather than the general public and when significant, identified costs can be attributed."*

(Leisure Programming, page 361)



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## **Five Objectives Used in Development of Existing Bylaw 7073**

- That fees provide accessibility for most taxpayers
- That fees are straightforward and easily administered
- That fees generally mirror cost of living increases
- That fee rates are comparable to other municipalities on Vancouver Island
- That admissions for children, students and seniors are subsidized in comparison to adult admissions

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## **Nanaimo's Bylaw 7073 Under General Principals**

"Fees and charges should supplement tax appropriations as a source of revenue for Parks, Recreation and Culture Department services and facilities and should not be the primary source of funds for their operation."

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## Revenue from Fees & Admissions

	Drop-in Admissions	Revenue from Facility Rentals	Program Revenue
Arenas	\$110,975	\$979,775	\$278,205
Aquatics	\$1,979,827	\$180,339	\$482,906
Recreation Operations	\$110,641	\$598,006	\$1,341,559
Park Operations		\$173,043	
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$2,201,443</b>	<b>\$1,931,163</b>	<b>\$2,102,670</b>



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## Registered Programs

- Fees assigned for programs in the Activity Guide generally aim to recover direct costs, including:
  - Instructor wages
  - Materials and supplies
  - External equipment space rental
- Often divide total by 75% of expected/maximum enrollment to set the fee
- Will use some revenues to augment new or low cost programs and grants

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## General Admission Fees

- Refers to drop-in access to pools, public skates, fitness facilities, and gymnasium sports at Oliver Woods (not 100 percent cost recovered)
- Age groups are the most important subsidy factor - use adult fee as base:
  - Children under 2 (free)
  - Children 3 to 12
  - Youth 13 to 18
  - Adult 19 to 59
  - Family
  - Senior 60 to 80
  - Super Senior 80+ (free)



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## Facility Rentals – Primary Factors

1. Type of Group
2. Type of Function



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## Type of Group

- Local registered non-profits with services open to the public
- Local government or school district groups
- Private social, religious, political, and labour organizations
- Commercial

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## Types of Functions

- Meetings
- Programs or Workshops
- Social Events
- Commercial Events (trade show, conventions where admission is charged or sales occur)

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## Other Considerations that Affect Rates:

- Rental requests are reviewed by a matrix for **Type of Group** and **Type of Function**
- Differentiate for quality of space e.g. playfields (artificial turf vs. grass field)
- Size of spaces
- Amenities available at that space
- Other external tariffs & insurance

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## Specialized Services

- Generally, specialized services should be full cost recovery – especially for food and beverage and other retail sales
- Equipment rentals and field lights should reflect actual costs, as well as specialized maintenance
- Leases and licences

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## Accessibility and Inclusion

- Formal leisure access programs, such as LEAP (Leisure Economic Access Program) address both program subsidy and participation
- Sponsored or low cost swims and skates
- A list of low cost or free programs printed in each Activity Guide
- 80+ years passes
- Grade 5/6 Active Passes



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## LEAP Program

- provides access to the City of Nanaimo recreation facilities for residents in financial need living in the City of Nanaimo and contributing areas
- Eligible LEAP cardholders receive:
  - a 50 per cent course fee discount (to a maximum of \$40) for up to four courses per year
  - an annual Swim/Skate/Gym pass for 50 free admissions to scheduled drop-in programs

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## LEAP Criteria

- To qualify:
  - applicants' family income must be below the Statistics Canada Low Income Cut-offs (e.g.):
    - 1 person - \$21,687
    - 2 people - \$26,997
    - 3 people - \$33,190
    - 4 people - \$40,298
  - Applicants must present a completed application, Photo ID and proof of residency, Income Tax Notice of Assessment and (if applicable) Canada Child Benefit Statement and Other income declaration.

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## Reviewing Bylaw Next Steps

- Fees and charges considerations
- Continuity in classifications
- Re-format for clarity and ease of use
- Fee comparison to other communities
- Recommendations for fee adjustments

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## Going Forward

- Background report and presentation at 2019-DEC-02 Finance & Audit Committee meeting
- Draft report/bylaw with proposed updates for review in early 2020
- Draft fee schedule incorporating Council's input presented to end user groups for feedback
- Final report and bylaw presented for first readings in the new year
- Goal to have by-law in place by May 2020, for implementation September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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## Benefits & Costs Approach to the Provision of Parks, Recreation & Culture Rates & Fees:



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# Questions / Discussion ?



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