

ATTACHMENT C

Partners in Parks (PIP) - Volunteer Areas

The Partners in Parks program has evolved over the past forty years to meet community needs. Currently, the PIP funds and facilitates the following:

- **Neighbourhood park improvement planning and playground installation--** 15 collaborative park improvement plans, about 40 neighbourhood playgrounds, and several sport courts and trails, have been planned, designed and installed through the PIP process and/or with PIP funding. All neighbourhood parks in new subdivisions over the past 30 years have developed through this process to ensure that the local space meets the needs and demographics of immediate residents and to help develop community pride. Most playgrounds have been installed on parkland, but some are also located on road right of way and other public property.
- **Community Art in public places—**Many neighbourhood groups have designed, painted and installed their own public art installations including works at Deverill Square Park, Pawson Park and Forest Drive Gyro Park. Most installations have been part of a bigger park improvement plan and have involved residents of all ages in their creation. These help to animate the public spaces, build local ownership and pride, and involve local residents in place-making efforts.
- **Edible Landscapes and food-forest development –** Growing food on City owned land (both park and road right of way) is an emerging trend. Six community gardens and two food forests have developed through a collaborative PIP process. Two additional food forests would like to expand in a similar collaborative fashion. Some neighbourhood associations hold maintenance agreements with the City for these edible areas such as the Nanaimo Old City Association (in process) and South End Neighbourhood Association.
- **Park maintenance—**Currently six neighbourhoods and one service club (Protection Island Lions) maintain neighbourhood parks to a desired standard that is higher than the City otherwise provides. Some neighbourhoods receive operational funding for this work. Maintained amenities include: trails, grassy areas, irrigation systems, trees, and ornamental flower beds. The City still inspects any playgrounds and trails for safety.
- **Beautification and boulevard tree planting—**Some neighbourhoods regularly plant and maintain flower beds, boulevards and traffic circles to a higher level of service than the City was providing. Currently, three ornamental flower beds, one traffic circle and the Bowen rhododendron garden are maintained by volunteers. These are over and above the neighbourhood park maintenance discussed above. Some neighbourhoods have also planted and maintained boulevard trees together including planting events with the Nanaimo Old City Association and South End Neighbourhood Association.

- **Park Ambassadors**— In 2019 and 2020, 25 people actively served as PIP ambassadors in parks. These ambassadors wear PIP vests, regularly walk the sites, interact with park visitors and assist with reporting park maintenance issues and local stewardship.
- **Adopt a Park**—Currently 15 groups have adopted specific parks and carry out regular park clean-ups and stewardship projects including school groups and service clubs.
- **Invasive plant removal and environmental restoration**—The City annually provides support to many community groups who remove invasive plants from City owned land. The City provides tools, training and removes/disposes of the invasive plant debris. Often native plants are installed following the removal work to help restore the natural ecosystem. In 2019 and 2020, over 5000 plants and trees were planted by volunteers and participation has ranged between 200 and 700 people. Some neighbourhood associations, as well as a variety of community and school groups, have been particularly active in removing invasive plants.
- **Litter, stream and shoreline cleanups**—The City currently provides support to community groups who remove litter from City owned land (parks and streets) as well as local beaches. The City provides tools and safety training and removes/disposes of the debris.
- **Park naturalist walks**—Expert volunteers can share their knowledge on a variety of subjects. Walks are typically advertised at a local level and/or in the PRC activity guide.
- **Park and street parties**—The City can provide equipment, games and space for neighbourhood events in public spaces and block parties to build community pride.
- **Gate-keepers**—in past years, neighbours of parks adjacent to parking lots have opened and closed gates to limit nuisance public access at night. An example of a past site is Blueback Park. Most gates are currently opened and closed by contracted security services.
- **Recreational amenities**—PIP funding and other capital partnership funds have also been used to augment budgets for various recreational amenities including development of a disc golf course and development of covered batting cages at Serauxman Sport Fields. Other times, the City partners with various service clubs and neighbourhood associations to build amenities and share costs such as: the Harewood Neighbourhood Association to build the Harewood Water Park and Harewood Youth Park; Rotary Clubs of Nanaimo to build the Maffeo Sutton Centennial Garden, and the Lions Club to build the Maffeo Sutton Lion's Pavilion; and numerous other projects.