



Neighbourhood Association Organizational Capacity Review, Support and Engagement



Key Focus Areas:

1. Neighbourhood Association Organizational Capacity Review and Revised Recognition Criteria;
2. Expansion of the Partners in Parks (PIP) Program into a Partners in Community (PIC) Program.



Neighbourhood Policy Background

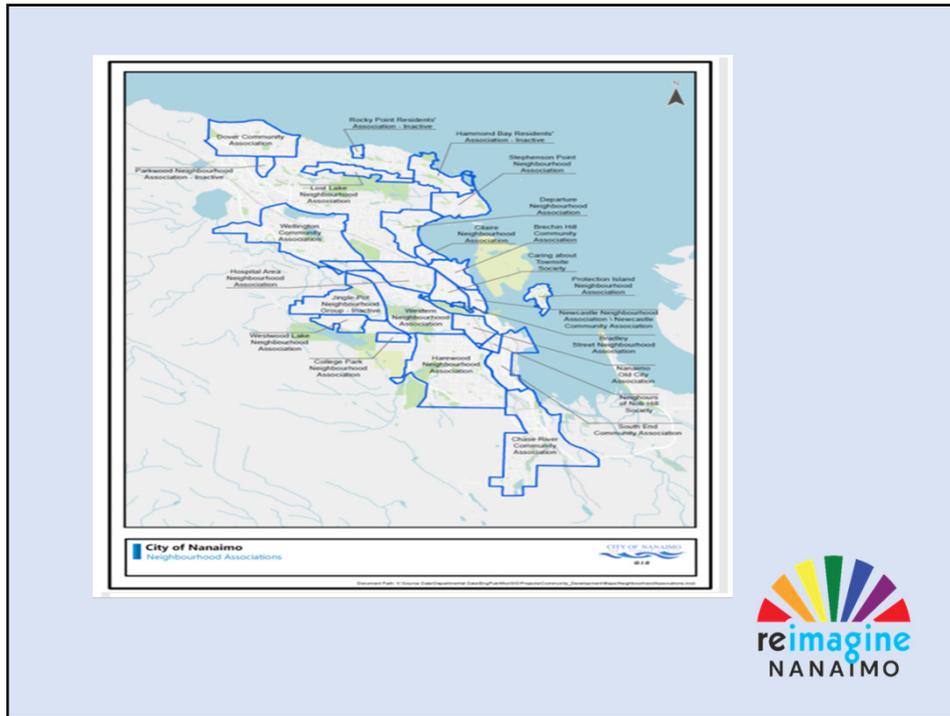
- Imagine Nanaimo (1992) – Support for Neighbourhoods as “Vital Building Blocks” in Vision Statement.
- Plan Nanaimo (1994) and Ensuing Neighbourhood Plans Reinforce this Vision.
- “The City will promote the establishment of neighbourhood associations to support neighbourhood planning initiatives”.



Nanaimo’s Neighbourhood Associations and Their Organizational Structure

- 20 Active Neighbourhood Associations;
- Various ages (some 20+ years);
- Spread throughout the community;
- Boundaries self-defined;
- Organizational capacity varies;
- Generally collaborative relationship, with some occasional exceptions.





<p>Groups which are formally organized as registered non-profits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association • Harewood Neighbourhood Association • Neighbours of Nob Hill Society • Protection Island Neighbourhood Association • South End Community Association • Wellington Community Association/Wellington Action Committee
<p>Groups which are not formally organized as registered non-profits but have an executive, regular meetings and a membership structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brechin Hill Community Association • Chase River Community Association • Hospital Area Neighbourhood Association • Lost Lake Neighbourhood Association • Nanaimo Old City Association • Newcastle Community Association • Newcastle Neighbourhood Association • Stephenson Point Neighbourhood Association
<p>Groups which are not formally organized as registered non-profits and are loosely organized with no executive, regular meetings or membership structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley Street Neighbourhood Association • Claire Neighbourhood Association • College Park Neighbourhood Association • Dover Community Association • Western Neighbourhood Association • Westwood Lake Neighbourhood Association/Friends of Westwood Lake
<p>Groups which are inactive but did exist in the past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaufort Commons Residents' Association • Caring About Townsite Society • East Wellington Concerned Citizens • Hammond Bay Residents' Association • Jinglepot Neighbourhood Group • Parkwood Neighbourhood Association • Rocky Point Residents Association

Neighbourhood Association Organizational Capacity Questionnaire Response Summary Highlights

- Organizational Capacity;
- Most Positive Change Over Last Ten Years Per Neighbourhood;
- Top priorities for Change Per Neighbourhood Moving Forward;
- What Role Should a Neighbourhood Association Play;
- Under What Organizational Criteria Should a Neighbourhood Association Be Recognized.



Revised Recognition Criteria for Neighbourhood Associations

Proposed Criteria:

- Have an elected executive that meets on a regular basis;
- Have a membership structure (not necessarily fee paying);
- Hold an annual general meeting (AGM);
- Keep minutes for executive and general membership meetings;
- Engage with its neighbourhood for input prior to responding to City development referrals, such as rezoning, OCP amendment, and development permits; and
- Provide periodic updates to members related to the activities of the group.



Questions/Comments



A New Approach to Neighbourhood
Engagement, Support, and Priority
Implementation



Expansion of the Partners in Parks (PIP) Program into a Partners in Community (PIC) Program



Heritage of Volunteerism in Nanaimo

Sunday, April 19 1953 -First work party
Rotary club sponsored the start of
Bowen Park development.



Volunteers
at Bowen Park



Heritage of Volunteerism in Nanaimo



1982 Policy

"1982 Council direction was that no new neighbourhood parks would be developed unless through Volunteers and created with the VIP program"



Intro to the Partners in Parks Program



Intro to the Partners in Parks Program



Partners in Parks Collaborative Projects with Neighbourhood Associations



Expansion of the Partners in Parks (PIP) Program into a Partners in Community (PIC) Program

Focus: Neighbourhood-based priority implementation versus long-range neighbourhood planning.

Improvement Areas:

Wellness & play	Neighbourhood
Street & mobility	Beautification and food production
Community Safety	Environment and open space stewardship

Neighbourhood Priority Identification:

Various sources: Capacity Questionnaire, REIMAGINE Nanaimo stakeholder discussions, Community Engagement Task Force Empowering Neighbourhoods session, and Neighbourhood Plans (where adopted).



Potential Benefits and Implications of a PIC program



Benefits:

- Combine financial and interdepartmental Staff and resources;
- Gets people active and involved in improving Nanaimo's neighbourhoods and public spaces;
- Community development of the truest sense—often people who don't know each other work together for a cause;
- Builds sense of place;
- Work gets done that otherwise would not occur;
- Prioritize projects that are important to neighbourhoods;
- Help implement actions at the neighbourhood level.



Implications:

- New processes and budgets to be worked out;
- Long wait and project list;
- Could impact operations and maintenance long term;
- Projects already in motion will continue on the old system.



Proposed Next Steps

- Develop a detailed PIC Program and annual capital and operating budget.
- Staff will engage with the neighbourhood associations and PIP volunteers.
- Community engagement on the PIC Program will also take place through Phases 2 and 3 of the REIMAGINE Nanaimo process.



Questions/Comments

