

ATTACHMENT A
ARBOT (2) PARK – PIP GRANT PROPOSAL

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Nanaimo City Council
Finance and Audit Committee
c/o 500 Bowen Road
Nanaimo, BC V9R 1Z7

March 2019

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this proposal by the residents surrounding Royal Oak Place and Arbot Road, to the Partners in Parks Program (PIP) for funding to develop Arbot (2) Park into a playground and community gathering place. Our committee is requesting \$25,000 from PIP funds to help complete the park space. Our park will include playground equipment for children ages 2 - 12, picnic table(s) and bench(es), split rail fencing, and careful removal and replacement of trees and shrubs to ensure a natural forest environment remains.

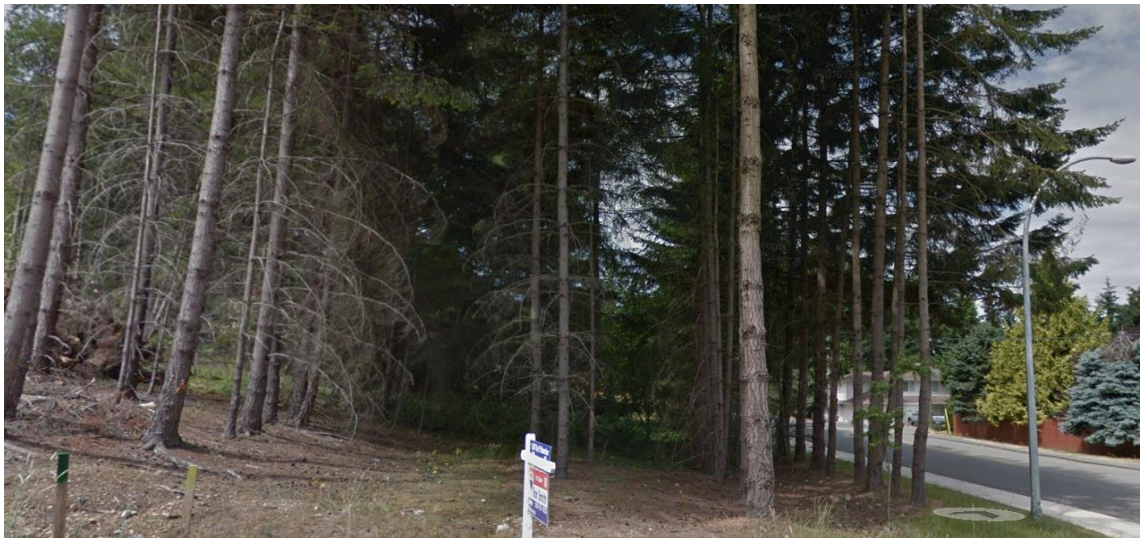
Background

Arbot (2) Park is located beside a new neighbourhood in an already established community in the heart of South Jinglepot area, adjacent to Westwood Lake and College Heights. This community is heavily residential with a small commercial sector consisting of a gas station, convenient store, liquor store, pub and restaurant. In spite of the close proximity to Westwood Lake, one of the cities prime outdoor recreational areas, Royal Oak Place and surrounding streets are lacking an outdoor green space where families and neighbours can easily gather together and play. Aside from the local schools, Nanaimo Christian and Mountain View Elementary which offer playgrounds for use after school and extracurricular hours, the next nearest playgrounds are Cariboo Park, Meadow Creek Community Park, and Rock Ridge Park realistically accessible only by personal vehicle or public transportation. Furthermore, what makes Arbot (2) Park an attractive site for playground development is its close proximity to all the neighbouring communities making this a 5 minute walk in almost every direction, as well as acting as a current bus stop for the previously mentioned schools.

Current Planning

On November 24th, 2018 the people of Royal Oak Place and adjoining neighbourhoods met at the location of Arbot (2) Park with city representative Kirsty MacDonald and discussed the growing interest in developing said location into a playground. Of these residents there was a lot of support with most of the families in attendance (and some that could not attend but emailed written interest in their place) expressing favour of developing above mentioned Arbot (2) Park. From there a committee was put into place and formal planning commenced. Since the initial meet, a number of meetings and correspondence has occurred between committee members, as well as neighbours.

Arbot (2) Park, located at 310 Arbot Road, is 0.1 hectares of undeveloped green space (see photos below). The space was acquired by the city of Nanaimo in 2014 through a residential subdivision process. It has remained untouched since then to be developed as a neighbourhood green space by the residents through the PIP program as part of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan (2005) that recommends adding neighbourhood parks in the Westwood Lake Area to ensure adequate neighbourhood park space.



View of the park from Royal Oak Place

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View of the park from Arbot Rd



View of the park from Arbot and Harwell Rd

Vision

Our goal is to create a space for residents to gather. Specifically, create a place where young families can walk safely to a local playground and play in a natural inspired green space, where local school aged children can expel energy while waiting for their school buses. Create a place where preschool aged children can play during the day without interfering with school schedules and where residents of all ages can enjoy a picnic style lunch or a take a few minutes to sit on a bench and enjoy the forest inspired green space on their way to or from collecting mail. We want to keep as much of the native vegetation and trees as possible while still maintaining a safe space for creative play.

Our overall site plan is depicted and will include age appropriate play structure for children ages 2 through 12 designed to blend with the natural environment, a picnic table and a couple of benches, removal of some trees, planting of new trees to replace those that will need to be removed, and other vegetation native to the area. We want to work with existing features of the space, like the perfectly lined row of trees that naturally acts as a pathway leading to a preexisting open section of this green space that would house the playground equipment. Most importantly, we want to keep the authentic forest feel of the space and not encroach on the neighbouring houses privacy.

In addition, although outside of the scope of the park improvements, we would like to work with the City to help improve traffic safety on Harwell Drive through the use of barricades or other safety items.

Fundraising Opportunities and Community Contributions

Our committee is working hard to develop a fundraising strategy focusing on local business and local active developers to partner with us in the PIP program. Members of our community are aware of the commitment, time and finances that is required to ensure the vision of Arbot (2) Park is realized. We are still in the early stages of fundraising, but have a solid plan in place to keep building momentum and secure the necessary funding. To date we have managed to secure the following contributions and fundraising opportunities pending city approval to move forward.

- Mini excavator - PENDING
- Trucking - PENDING
- Pipe layer for surface drainage installation - PENDING
- Concrete - Bedrock
- TD Bank, Bowen location - Applying to head office for grant funds as well as manpower for building playground equipment
- Country Grocer, Bowen location - Hot dog fundraising sale
- Invasive plant removal work party
- Labour for playground site preparation and playground installation
- Labour for border installation
- Volunteer planning time

We are hoping to finalize all our fundraising over the spring and summer of 2019 so that we can commit to install the playground in September or October 2019.

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Budget

Here is a proposed budget for our small playground:

Task	Cost (estimate)	Source
Site Clean-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canopy limbing of existing fir trees and selective removal if required • Removal of invasive plants (blackberry, daphne, hawthorne, ivy, holly, broom) 	\$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising contributions with work done by tree service under city direction • Volunteer Fundraising and spring/summer workparties
Natural character playground equipment and surfacing for 2-12 year olds (compact footprint play structure including rock wall, stepping stones, slides, stair access for younger kids, spinner rocker, net, and possibly using underneath space for younger kids). Similar to Climbing structure similar to the Imp Venture structure but must fit the play zone of about 6 by 22m	\$25,000	PIP funds.
Installation of the playground, drainage system and safety surfacing (site preparation, machinery, concrete, labour, tools)..	\$14,000	Fundraising--PIP is committed to doing this work in the fall of 2019 under the supervision of city and playground rep
Border for playground (2 x 6 and potentially some rock) Materials and labour	\$8,000	Fundraising
Installation of picnic table and/or bench including concrete and installation	\$2,000 to \$3,000	Fundraising contributions
Installation of natural park gateway feature	\$4,800 to \$6,000	Fundraising and volunteer labour. Can be installed after the playground.
Total	\$55,800 to \$58,000	\$25,000 from PIP funds and remaining funds from volunteer fundraising and labour

Name Change Request

At this time we would also like to formally request that park be renamed from Arbot (2) Park to Royal Oak Park. A name that compliments the surrounding community and will not cause confusion with the other Arbot Road off of Westwood Rd.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the PIP program and for your careful consideration of our application. The PIP funds play an important role in making our vision come to fruition and we are excited for positive changes this would bring our community. Should you require any further information, please contact the committee at royaloakpark@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,

The Arbot (2) Park Committee:

Kelsey Kollar
Colten Redman
Skyler Goebel
Cody Goebel
Kaitlin Orasa
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Sally Swett
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