

FOR: FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: April 15, 2026

DEPARTMENT: PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

SUBJECT: **SUNVIEW PARK – PARTNERS IN PARKS PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To seek Finance and Audit Committee approval to award Partners in Parks (PIP) Program funding to the Sunview Park Committee.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council award \$50,000 from the 2026 Partners in Parks Program Fund, to the Sunview Park Committee for the proposed park improvements and playground installation at Sunview Park.

BACKGROUND

The PIP Program is a Council initiative that invites community volunteers to partner with the City of Nanaimo (the City) to develop neighbourhood parks. Each year, \$100,000 is budgeted to the PIP Program and community volunteers who work with City staff to develop their projects and apply to have a portion of the PIP Program funds be allocated to their proposal.

Sunview Park is a 0.4 acre undeveloped park located in the Diver Lake neighbourhood, at the intersection of Suncrest Road and Sunview Road. This park was acquired in 2021 following the completion of the surrounding residential subdivision. The park is zoned PRC-2, which supports recreational and cultural amenities for all residents. The surrounding neighbourhood includes low and medium density residential development, as well as some light industrial and commercial uses.

Since the establishment of the subdivision, a number of young families have moved into the area. There are limited age-appropriate recreational opportunities in this neighbourhood. In response, the Sunview Park Committee was formed in winter 2025 in order to begin exploring the development of a playground in the area that offered protection from nearby industrial traffic and age-appropriate amenities.

DISCUSSION

The Sunview Park Committee has submitted their proposal for consideration and have been actively pursuing fundraising opportunities, donations in the form of labour, monetary contributions, and other sources of funding to support the project. Staff have collaborated with the Sunview Park Committee to establish a site plan that includes a large multi-age playground structure, a swing set, a perimeter bicycle

track, and supporting amenities including picnic tables, benches, and waste receptacles. The proposed site layout aims to maintain the natural grade of the site, which is heavily used for sledding.

It is estimated that the total project cost will be \$210,000. A Community Amenity Contribution of \$20,000 was secured through a prior rezoning application and the Sunview Park Committee expects to be able to fundraise and receive donations-in-kind with a value of \$140,000, with the remaining \$50,000 to be allocated by the City using the 2026 PIP Program funds.

If approved, a project account would be created for the Sunview Park improvements. All disbursements from the account will be controlled by the City. Fundraising proceeds can be added to the account and the project will not proceed until the fundraising, as outlined in the delegation's proposal, is successful.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Each year, \$100,000 is budgeted to the PIP Program. If approved, \$50,000 of the 2026 PIP Program fund will be directed to the proposed improvements at Sunview Park. The remaining \$50,000 in the 2026 PIP Program fund will be held for additional projects to be considered by the Finance and Audit Committee in 2026.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Staff met with the neighbourhood at Sunview Park on 2025-NOV-30 to discuss a vision for the site, identify potential park elements, and gauge support for the project. Approximately 23 neighbourhood residents attended the meeting and it was determined that a playground structure that was suitable for all ages was a priority, as well as outdoor seating for supervision and maintaining the existing slope for sledding. Ongoing discussions and site meetings between Staff and members of the Sunview Park Committee have continued as we work towards a site design.

ALIGNMENT WITH CITY PLAN

The report is aligned with the following City goals:

- A Green Nanaimo: Resilient and Regenerative Ecosystems
- A Connected Nanaimo: Equitable Access and Mobility
- A Healthy Nanaimo: Community Wellbeing and Livability
 - C3.6 Recreation, Culture, & Wellness
- An Empowered Nanaimo: Reconciliation, Representation and Inclusion
 - C4.2 Equity & Inclusivity
 - C4.3 Access for All
 - C4.4 Political Voice & Engagement
 - C4.5 Culture
 - C4.7 Public Art Projects & Programs
 - C4.9 Parkland & Park Amenity Management
- A Prosperous Nanaimo: Thriving and Resilient Economy
 - C5.5 Place Making & Investment Attraction

ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL’S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The report is aligned with the following Council Strategic Framework priorities:

- Implementing City Plan Action Plans and Key City Management Plans
- Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges
- Maintaining and Growing Current Services
- Capital Projects
- Communicating with the Community
- Governance and Corporate Excellence

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council award \$50,000 from the 2026 Partners in Parks Program Fund, to the Sunview Park Committee for the proposed park improvements and playground installation at Sunview Park.
 - The advantages of this option: Improvements at Sunview Park can occur and project funding could remain in the 2026 PIP Program funds to support future projects at Council’s discretion.
 - The disadvantages of this option: The proposed improvements at Sunview Park may not proceed.
 - Financial Implications: \$50,000 of the 2026 PIP Program fund will be directed to the proposed improvements. Projects that are not approved may request funding again in 2027. This could reduce the funding available for new groups that request project funding from Council in 2027.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternate direction.

KEY MESSAGES

- Staff have collaborated with the Sunview Park Committee to establish a site plan that includes a large multi-age playground structure, a swing set, a perimeter bicycle track, and supporting amenities.
- The Sunview Park Committee has been actively pursuing various funding opportunities to support the project.
- Staff recommend that the Finance and Audit Committee recommend Council award \$50,000 from the 2026 PIP Program fund to the Sunview Park Committee for the proposed park improvements.

ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT A: Sunview Park Partners in Parks Proposal
ATTACHMENT B: Sunview Park Proposed Site Plan

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