

Attachment A

Fern Road Park – PIP Grant Proposal

Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Wellness Commission
co/ 500 Bowen Road
Nanaimo, BC
V9R 1Z7

May 9, 2018

Dear Committee Members,

Please accept this proposal by the residents of the neighbourhoods surrounding Fern Road Park, to the Partners in Parks Program (PIP) for funding to develop a playground and community gathering place at Fern Road Park. Our committee is requesting \$25,000 from PIP funds to help complete the park. Our park will include playground equipment for ages 3-12, picnic tables, water fountain, split rail fencing, and careful reduction and replacement of existing tree cover to optimise shade cover and preserve the environmental and historic character of this unique place.

BACKGROUND

The community surrounding the Fern Road Park is located at the boundary of lands that used to constitute the Westwood Family Dairy farm – one of Nanaimo's oldest commercial enterprises and settler families. This heritage is reflected in the small sheep and rabbit farm along its southern border. Between this border and Bowen Road there have been a variety of developments dating from the 1940s, the 1970s, 90s, and the 2000s constituting over 100 residences ranging from duplexes to large and small single-family houses, with an additional 8 units currently undergoing the approval process on the corner of Tulsa and Meredith Roads.

In the heart of this area, at the bottom of Fern Road is an undeveloped piece of land currently known as "Fern Road Park". The area contains several crab-apple trees, a Fir tree that was abandoned many Christmases ago, and a brush area which is the habitat for several species of bird. There has been overwhelming interest from local residents for developing this underutilized space, and converting it to a gathering place the community can enjoy. This park would preserve a sense of our natural heritage in this urbanizing area and be a safe place for various age groups to play and gather, bringing the neighbourhood closer together. Safety and community are key to this project, connecting neighbours, and providing a close-by playground. While there are other playgrounds within a 10-15-minute walk, this neighbourhood is surrounded by 2 truck routes (Bowen and Northfield), and by 2 major connectors (Meredith and Boxwood). These act as impermeable boundaries for parents walking with wide strollers or multiple children in an area of town that sees more than its fair share of speeding and congestion.

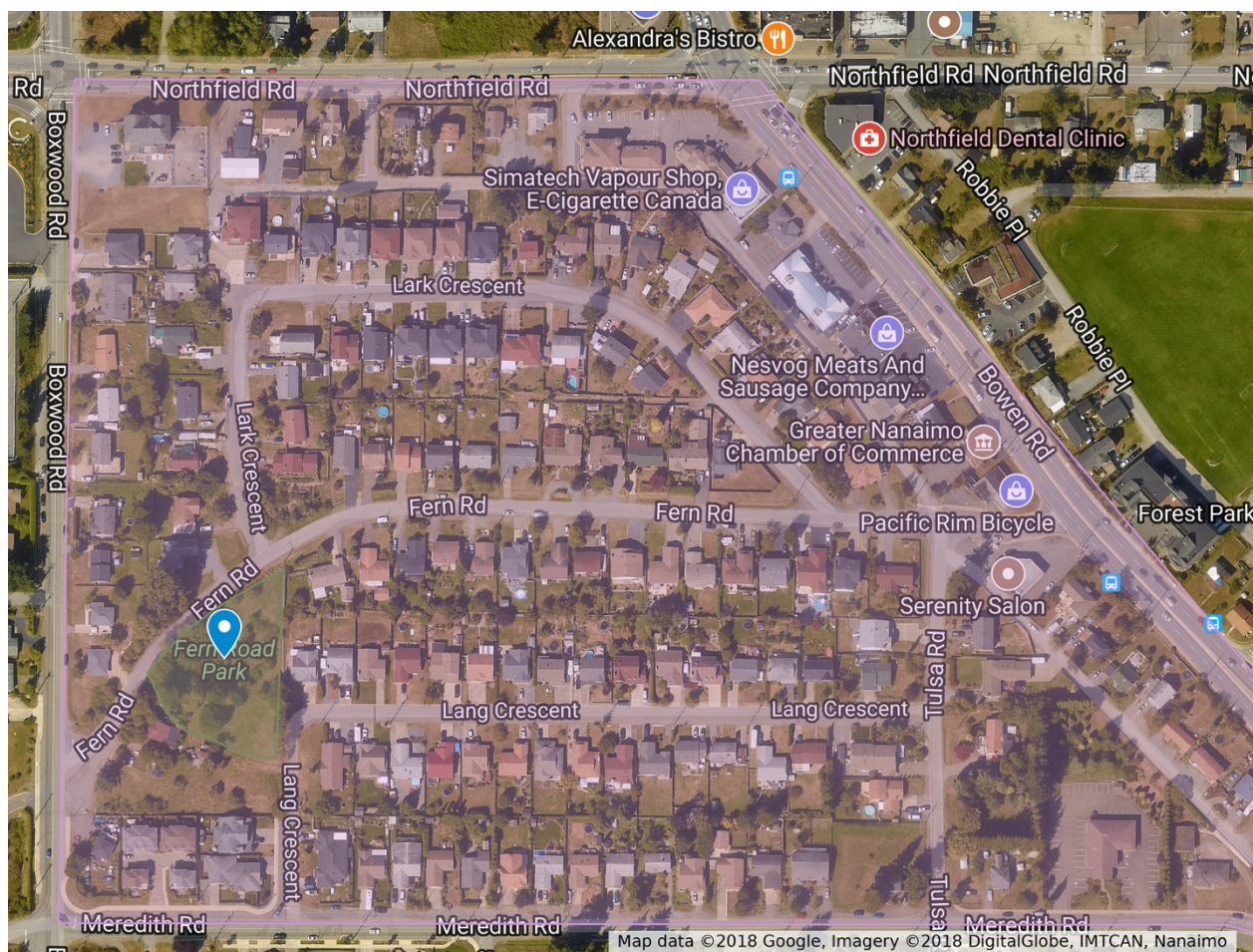


Figure 1 - Fern Road Park Neighbourhood and existing park boundary

CURRENT PLANNING

Residents of the Fern Road neighbourhood gathered on March 3, 2018 for a Fern Road Park orientation meeting hosted by City of Nanaimo representative, Kirsty MacDonald. Of these residents there was an overwhelming amount of support, with most of the 29 families that attended indicating on the sign-up sheet that they were in support of park improvements at this location. From this meeting an organizing committee was established to initiate the process of formalizing a plan based on the expressed viewpoints. Since then, several meetings have been held to strategize the development process.

Fern Road Park is a .262 hectare (226m²) undeveloped neighbourhood park. The park was acquired by the City of Nanaimo in 1988 through a residential subdivision. It has remained undeveloped since then to be developed as a neighbourhood open space by the residents through the PIP program.



Figure 3 – Current Condition of Fern Road Park

VISION

Our vision is a place for the residents of this neighbourhood to gather, particularly for children in the area who are cut off from other parks due to dangerous roads and high levels of traffic. This gathering area will welcome all neighbourhood residents, whether they are out walking their dogs, seeking a bit of green space in the city, or encouraging their children to engage with nature via the local habitat and playground. The completed product should blend into the natural landscape of the area. Our overall plans include playground structures designed to reflect the natural setting, an open grassy play area, a picnic area with picnic tables, removal of some existing trees, and planting mature trees in order to provide shade for the park and privacy for neighbouring houses. Given the scope of the project, it may be necessary to construct this park in two stages conditional to available funding.



Figure 4 – Site Plan

FUNDRAISING PLAN AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Our committee has begun to develop a fundraising strategy based on inviting local businesses and developers to partner with us in the PIP program. Members of our community are aware of the commitment, in terms of time and finances that will be required to ensure the vision of Linley Valley Drive Park is realized. So far, the community support has been all positive with many families and individuals already offering to help.

We are in the early stages of fundraising and have a strong plan in place to keep momentum building and solidify the required funding.

Table 1 - Fundraising Plan of Action

Business	Donation	Donation Value	Person Responsible	Pending/Secured
Country Grocer	CASH	Up to \$10k		PENDING
Quality Foods	BBQ Supplies	\$250		PENDING
Gyro Clubs	CASH		DREW	PENDING
TD Bank	CASH		JULIAN	PENDING
Alexandria's	CASH	\$300	DREW	PENDING
Coastal Community Credit	CASH		TAYLOR	PENDING
Landlubber	Beer and Burger	\$1500		PENDING
Milestone	Playground prep and drainage	\$2000-\$5000	JULIAN	PENDING
Oceanvale Mortgage	Bench Sponsor	\$2000	Drew	Secured

FUNDING REQUEST

The Fern Road Park Improvement Committee is requesting Partners in Parks funds in the amount of \$25,000. This funding would be allocated as follows:

Task	Cost estimate	Source
Preparatory Work		
• Installation of a split rail fence	\$3800	City Operations
• Removal of park trees at the end of their life, canopy limbing, chipping	\$3000	In-kind donations, Project Funds
• Drainage improvements adjacent farm	\$1000	Project Funds
Phase 1		
• Playground equipment and surfacing for 2-5 year old and 5-12 year olds (including bucket and belt swings, spider-web, monkey bars)	TBA-\$40,000?	PIP funds
• Installation of the playground and safety surfacing and border (machinery, concrete, labour, tools)	\$10,000	Fundraising / Project Funds
• Border for playground (2 by 6)	\$5000 (TBA)	Fundraising / Project Funds
• Installation of a water fountain	\$2000	Project Funds
• Installation of new shade trees and drip irrigation	\$15,000	Urban Forestry Funds
• Installation of park entrance sign	Nominal	City
• Route path through park, away from neighbours	TBA	? Fundraising
• Installation of a split rail fence along Fern Road	56m. \$4000	Fundraising / Project Funds
• Installation of two picnic tables & bench	\$4500	Fundraising / Project Funds
• Consideration of interpretive signage (about agriculture, Neighbourhood history, etc).	\$1000 per sign installed (2)	Fundraising / Project Funds
TOTAL:	\$90,500	Total Park and Improvement Cost

CONCLUSION

The residents of Fern Road and surrounding area are committed to improving our neighbourhood greenspace and growing our community. Thus far, the community support has been very positive, with both area residents and the neighbourhood of the site expressing their desire for this project to proceed.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the PIP program, and for your consideration of our proposal. The PIP funds will be instrumental in the realization of our vision and we are excited to build the park through this process.

Yours sincerely,

The Fern Road Park Committee:

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Taylor Landry

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Jody Huml

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