

October 4, 2012

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**Strategic Parks Plan survey and public open house**

Campbell River residents are invited to help direct the Strategic Parks Plan for the next five years, with opportunities to comment online and in person.

A public open house will be held Wednesday, Oct. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sportsplex, 1800 South Alder St. The same day, an online survey will be launched, and community members are encouraged to take the opportunity to help direct the next five years of the City of Campbell River's Parks Plan.

The current Parks Plan was adopted by Council in 2006, and since then the Parks Department has had many successes, including raising 55 per cent of parks project funding from external sources to match Parks Parcel Tax dollars.

*"External funding helped achieve some priorities set by the community in the original public survey sooner, particularly playground replacements and sportsfield upgrades,"* says the City's parks project supervisor, Lynn Wark.

In the 2006 survey, the public identified comfort in parks, completion of trails and undeveloped parks and improved beautification as some of the priorities. The Parks Parcel Tax, other funding sources and contributions from local non-profit organizations have also allowed for upgrades to the parks irrigation system, the completion of the Greenways Loop along Jubilee Parkway, the addition of an Outdoor Lacrosse Box, Splash Park and parks signage and washrooms, to name a few.

This year's review and update will focus on projects remaining in the 2006 plan and new projects brought forward by community members since the plan's inception.

*"The survey provides an opportunity for the public to tell the Parks Department if these projects are still priorities for the community,"* Wark explains. *"There will also be a section for comments on Parks service levels, to capture community feedback."*

At a recent stakeholder meeting, Cal Grunerud, former Community Advisory Committee Chair, stated: *"Discussion, thoughts and ideas on the next phase of what Campbell River's parks, walkways and green space will look like is important. The upcoming public open house should be well attended as this issue is very important to the future and health of Campbell River and its citizens"*.

The survey can be accessed from the City of Campbell River's home page, beginning Oct.10.

– 30 –

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