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Great public response to Strategic Parks Plan survey

The City of Campbell River recently conducted an update of the City's Strategic Parks Plan. The Strategic Parks Plan is based on a comprehensive public consultation process undertaken in 2006. The plan guides Council regarding parks improvement and development decisions.

The 2012 Strategic Parks Plan update also included a public consultation process and a community survey. A total of 644 people took the time to answer questions on the recent survey – and offered comments and suggestions to help guide the future of Campbell River parks.

The survey was one of several ways Parks staff and LANARC Consultants (the original 2006 Strategic Parks Plan developer) checked in with community members to update the City plan that will guide parks development and improvement over the next five years.

Highlights from the public survey responses include a willingness to continue investing the annual Parks Parcel Tax (\$50-\$75 per property) in parks system improvements and further development.

Higher-ranked project priorities identified by the public included:

- artificial turf field and clubhouse at Robron Park
- waterfront improvements and park development along the Seawalk
- change house at the new Splash Park
- completion of the Greenways Loop from Maryland Road to Jubilee Parkway

The public also expressed support for parks maintenance and beautification, with many comments focused on the importance of a well-maintained community as an economic driver for attraction and retention of businesses and residents.

“The results of the public consultation process brought to light new recommendations and capital project priorities that will provide City Council with valuable information to assist with decision making during budget deliberations,” says Councillor Larry Samson, Council's Parks liaison.

“Parks Department staff would like to thank the public for the amazing participation and all the well-thought-out ideas shared in the recent Parks Plan Update Survey,” says Lynn Wark, the City's parks project supervisor.

People can view more information about the Strategic Parks Plan Update on the City's website under City Hall / Departments / Parks.

The 2006 Strategic Parks Plan was based on significant public consultation, and the five-year update aimed to incorporate similar feedback opportunities.

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