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**City to pursue waterfront walkway for vacant downtown site**

Campbell River is taking steps to extend the popular Seawalk through the vacant downtown waterfront site, a move that would fully connect the shoreline pathway along a 12-kilometre stretch.

The City is able to move forward on this project thanks to the Rotary Club's conditional offer to donate \$100,000 to extend the Seawalk from Roberts Reach to the Discovery Harbour Shopping Centre.

The Rotary Club donation is subject to:

- the project being fully funded
- the City completing the design and beginning construction this year
- the walkway fully connecting Roberts Reach to Discovery Harbour

In recognition of the Rotary Club's generous offer and the need to start work this year, City Council has directed staff to prepare preliminary design options and pursue additional grant funding for a waterfront walkway along the 3.5-acres of City-owned vacant land.

*"Completion of this section of walkway would connect the downtown core to Discovery Harbour and provide a continuous walkway from Maryland Road to the Tyee Spit via the Rotary Seawalk, sidewalks, Seagull Walkway and Ostler Park. This would enhance access to our waterfront and offer additional recreation and pedestrian opportunities to draw more people downtown," says Mayor Andy Adams. "The City will continue to work in partnership with the Wei Wai Kum First Nation on this project, which would benefit everyone by providing smoother pedestrian access along their six acres of vacant land to connect to the shopping centre."*

*"Establishing the walkway was a key recommendation of the City's waterfront task force," says city manager Deborah Sargent. "This is the first step in the development of this site."*

If funding is sufficient, the walkway design would match the standard of the existing Discovery Harbour waterfront walkway with a combination of paving stone edges, concrete slab centre area and intermittent paving stones inlaid along the route, with conduits installed for lighting.

The design could also include up to five metres of green space as a buffer zone, with split rail fencing similar to the style on the Tyee Spit, to separate the walkway from the undeveloped portion of the Wei Wai Kum six-acre and the City-owned 3.5-acre properties.

*"If funding is not available on that scale, we would pursue a basic asphalt walkway with concrete edging similar to the Tyee Spit pathways," Sargent says, adding: "Either design option would include an inlaid feature to recognize the significant contribution of the Rotary Club."*

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