

# Parks, Recreation & Trails



## Events

- Support the co-planning and co-delivery of sport hosting, festivals, community and neighborhood events within the Township.

## Facilities

- In consultation with stakeholders and residents, guide the future planning of recreation and wellness facilities to meet community needs.
- Ensure existing and future demographic flexibility in the design of recreation, wellness, and cultural facilities.
- Reduce design barriers to living a physically active life.
- Develop facilities that ensure children and youth have an opportunity to build healthy habits through physical activity – both through unstructured play and organized activities and programs.
- Include universal accessibility principles in the construction of new park facilities.
- Investigate the feasibility of artificial turf playing fields in Esquimalt.

## Map

- Present and proposed public parks and facilities are shown on the "Public Parks and Facilities Map".

## Parks

- Develop a park land acquisition strategy to ensure our park infrastructure continues to meet community demands and needs.
- Develop plans for infrastructure upgrades to enhance access and public use at Saxe Point Park.
- Develop plans for new facilities and park infrastructure at Esquimalt Gorge Park.

## Parks and Spaces (Design)

- Design new spaces to: eliminate physical access barriers, encourage programmed and unstructured activity, ensure flexibility of use and that space can be altered at a later date to accommodate changing demands from users.
- That a network of parks and open spaces meets Township wide and local area user needs.
- That a well-connected, clearly identifiable, and multi-functional network of greenways is established across the Township.
- Ensure that people have opportunities to connect with the physical environment through the design of parks and public spaces.
- Design the built environment to

support and promote opportunities for people of all ages to be active for life and achieve one's highest potential.

- Utilize design solutions to support active lifestyles for aging populations and programs.

## Trails

- Continue to maintain and enhance our multi-use trail network to provide connections and access to waterfront areas, parks and open space, regional trails and residential neighbourhoods.
- Create a network of trail and sidewalk infrastructure connecting Saxe Point Park to Esquimalt Gorge Park.
- Actively plan for the integration of passive recreational opportunities throughout the urban forest, and whenever possible, attempt to develop a mix of trail types within, or along the edges of tree retention areas.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Marlene Lagoa, Community Development Coordinator  
marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca  
Tel: 250-414-7114

This is one in a series of seven Official Community Plan draft policy documents for public review. To provide your input, send your comments to marlene.lagoa@esquimalt.ca by June 20, 2017. More info: [esquimalt.ca/communityplan](http://esquimalt.ca/communityplan)

## Urban Forest

- Continue to manage our urban forest, creating a thriving and sustainable mix of tree species and ages, resulting in a healthy ecosystem that is valued and cared for by the Township and its residents.
- Enhance public access points to the Gorge Waterway.
- Investigate marine access facilities for recreational users including kayaks, rowboats, kite surfers, paddle boarders, canoes and other watersports.

## Waterfront & Walkways

- Enhance physical and visual public access to our marine waterfront throughout the Township while mitigating disturbance to waterfront vegetation and environmental features.
- Consider construction of a networked waterfront trail along the Gorge Waterway from Admirals Road to Tillicum Road.
- Endeavour to obtain right-of-way agreements with landowners to allow for public access to the waterfront.
- Waterfront lands will be considered in future park land acquisition.
- Ensure that access to the waterfront is maintained in the design of waterfront development where possible.
- Balance recreational use of the waterfront with the protection and enhancement of areas of natural foreshore habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.
- Particular focus will be given to protecting the sensitive habitat found in the Gorge Park Estuary.

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