

District 68 and District 69 Sports Fields and Recreation Services Agreement Usage Survey 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That the District 68 and District 69 Sports Fields and Recreation Services Agreement Usage Survey 2023 report be received for information.

BACKGROUND

Within District 68 of the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), the City of Nanaimo, District of Lantzville and Electoral Areas A, B and C share in the annual operating costs of the City of Nanaimo's four major recreation centres, eleven City sports fields and two Electoral Area sports fields (Electoral Areas B and C). This shared contribution is outlined within the District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Services Agreement (Attachment 1).

Within District 69 of the RDN, Electoral Areas E, F, G and H share in the annual operating costs of two City of Parksville sports fields, one Town of Qualicum Beach sports field, and one sport field in Electoral Area E. This arrangement is captured within the District 69 Sports Field Services Agreement (Attachment 2). Both agreements are set to expire December 31, 2025.

Bylaw 1358.01 and Bylaw 899.01 (Attachments 3 and 4) outline the established cost sharing model between District 69 Electoral Areas, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach related to Oceanside Place and Ravensong Aquatic Centre recreation facilities. The apportionment calculation, based on usage and assessment, began in 2014 after RDN Board approval and was phased in over a five-year period to its current level of 50% usage and 50% assessment. Prior to 2014 cost sharing was based solely on assessment. Should changes be undertaken for the funding of Ravensong Aquatic Centre through amendments to RDN Bylaw #899 that are now being considered by the Board, District 69 (Oceanside) data collected from the usage survey will be used in calculating the changes once the Bylaw has been amended.

As per the terms of both agreements (Attachment 1 and 2), usage surveys are to be completed every five years and the results are then used to update the allocation formulas identified. Surveys were last completed in 2015 (Attachment 5). Surveys were scheduled to be completed in 2020 but due to public health orders to address the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely curtailed the usage of recreation/sport facilities, programs and participation, surveying was postponed. In 2021, during the preparation of the 2022 - 2026 Financial Plan staff had anticipated and planned that early 2023 would be more conducive to the completion of the usage surveys.

In addition to undertaking the surveys, as both agreements (Attachments 1 and 2) are set to expire within the next three (3) years, it is prudent to begin discussions with all partners on their renewal and updating some of the terms within.

One change that will be required in the District 68 agreement (Attachment 1) is an update as to how District of Lantzville and Electoral Areas A, B, and C are represented in matters related to the agreement. In the existing agreement this representation is identified under 9.0 Covenants of the Parties and in Schedule C of the agreement allowing these electoral areas membership and voting rights on the City of Nanaimo Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission (Bylaw 7020). The City of Nanaimo repealed this Bylaw and replaced it with City of Nanaimo District 68 Sports Fields and Recreation Committee in 2020. This new committee structure will need to be captured in a new District 68 agreement.

Methodology used in past usage surveys provided results with a margin of error no greater than 2.5%, 19 times out of 20. This level of accuracy exceeded the survey industry standard of 5%, in 19 times out of 20 replications. Usage data in the 2010 and 2015 surveys was obtained and reported as outlined below:

1. Aquatic Facilities

Collect a statistically valid sample of aquatic facility usage via drop in surveys that determine residential addresses of patrons attending a varied sampling of public sessions at aquatic facilities in both City of Nanaimo and Town of Qualicum Beach.

Collect a statistically valid sample of aquatic facilities usage from membership lists from registered programs, organized leagues, user groups and associations located in the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H.

2. Arenas

Collect a statistically valid sample of arena facility usage via drop in surveys that determine residential addresses of patrons attending a varied sampling of public sessions at arenas at the City of Nanaimo and the RDN's Oceanside Place.

Collect a statistically valid sample of arenas usage from membership lists from registered programs, organized leagues, user groups and associations located in the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H.

3. Sports fields

Collect a statistically valid sample of sports fields usage from membership lists from organized leagues, user groups and associations located in the City of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville, District of Lantzville and Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H.

4. Reporting

Data collected from drop in surveys, membership lists, user groups and recreation program registration systems at the City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo are tabulated with a focus on determining residential addresses. Further work is done to identify the number and percentages of patrons from the following jurisdictions: Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Areas A, B, C, E, F, G, H, City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Nanaimo, and District of Lantzville.

Usage at the three types of facilities (arenas, pools, sport fields) was weighted to provide as accurate a reflection of how the facilities are used. The profile of usage at pools is typically 50% from drop in use, 40% from program registrations and 10% through rentals. By contrast arenas and sport fields are mostly 90% and 100% respectively

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towards group rentals. It is anticipated that the data collection methods and their weighted use in future surveys be again carried out the same way as in 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

For efficiency and consistency, both the usage surveys for District 68 and District 69 would be completed at the same time and with the same consultant retained through a Request for Supplier Quotations as per the RDN Purchasing and Procurement Policy.

A total of \$63,000 has been included in the 2022 - 2026 Financial Plan for both the District 68 and 69 surveys. All participating members of both agreements share in this cost. The \$63,000 funding will be carried forward to subsequent years within the Financial Plan until the project has been completed.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

People and Partnerships - Seek opportunities to partner with the provincial and federal governments, other government agencies, and community stakeholder groups in order to advance strategic plan goals and objectives.

REVIEWED BY:

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ATTACHMENTS

1. District 68 Sports Field and Recreation Services Agreement
2. District 69 Sports Field Services Agreement
3. Regional District of Nanaimo District 69 Ice Arena Amendment Bylaw 1358.01
4. Regional District of Nanaimo District 69 Swimming Pool Service Amendment Bylaw 899.01
5. Regional District of Nanaimo 2015 Recreation Facility and Field Use Analysis