

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Arrowview Elementary Two sport fields with ball diamonds and soccer pitches.
- Nanoose Bay Elementary Small playfield – uses Jack Bagley facilities.
- Parksville Elementary Small playfield with three backstops.
- Winchelsea Elementary Playfield with backstop.
- Errington Community School Small playfield.
- French Creek Community School Small playfield.
- Qualicum Beach Elementary Large playfield with two backstops.
- Bowser Elementary Small playfield with backstops.

It should be noted that there are also a number of Provincial parks in the Oceanside area, including Rath Trevor, Englishman River, Little Qualicum Falls and Horne Lake Caves. These sites are well used by Oceanside residents, and are considered by many to be Regional Parks.

The consultants have identified several areas of interest regarding outdoor recreation facilities. Similar to the indoor facilities discussed in Chapter Six, the discussion focuses on facilities that meet the needs of all of the residents of the Oceanside area, as well as amenities that are more specific to the Electoral Areas.

7.2 CENTRALIZED FACILITIES

During meetings with local organizations, numerous needs were identified in terms of new and improved facilities. The consultants have identified several amenities below that are similar to the major facilities discussed in Chapter Six, in that they should be centralized, and located as conveniently as possible to all Oceanside residents.

- **Outdoor Sports Complex** Oceanside is well located in the central Vancouver Island area, and should consider the development of a large multi-sport facility with state of the art facilities.
- **Track and Field Facility** Consideration should be given to the construction of an eight lane, 400 meter running track and support facilities.
- **Trail Development** While not centralized, the Regional District should continue to develop a walking and cycling system, addressing the needs and interests of all Oceanside residents as per the Regional Parks and Trails plan.

RECOMMENDATION (2007)

- 22. Consider the following facilities – a sports complex, a track and field facility, and Regional Parks trails – as Region-wide facilities, to be provided as conveniently as possible to all Oceanside residents.**

7.3 OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX

It is the consultants' opinion that as a long term solution to many existing difficulties, local sport organizations - baseball, softball and soccer, football and others – require a large centralized sport complex to accommodate their need for regular league play, as well as for tournaments, and even regional and provincial events.

This type of facility has been developed in numerous communities across the Province, and has proven to be extremely successful in terms of attracting a variety of events, and also providing first class amenities that essentially meet the needs of the vast majority of sport requirements.

An example of this type of facility is the South Surrey Athletic Park, which includes a four diamond, lighted softball / fast pitch complex, complete with change rooms, restrooms, concession and restaurant; several soccer and rugby fields, lighted baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and a 400 meter running track, in addition to an Olympic-size arena and a new recreation centre, and a Rotary Club field house.

Surrey has several of these facilities, but it is not alone in recognizing the value of placing as many amenities at one location, in terms of convenience, reduced maintenance costs, and as an attraction to residents, non-residents and tourists. Other similar facilities are located in Kelowna, Nanaimo, Kamloops, Port Alberni, Burnaby and Mission.

This is a project that requires a vision, a “champion”, a commitment from numerous organizations and the Regional District, and patience – because it will be expensive to build, and it will, in all likelihood, be built in a number of phases, one of which would be locating and acquiring the appropriate land (twenty or more acres). It is also a facility that can bring the sports community together as few others can.

It is the consultants' opinion that the Recreation and Parks Department could play a leadership role in the planning and development of such a facility, along with the Oceanside Sports Association, the City of Parksville, the Town of Qualicum Beach, the School District and other organizations.

RECOMMENDATIONS (ONGOING)

- 23. Facilitate a meeting with local sport organizations to discuss the possibility of developing a major sports complex in the Oceanside area.**
- 24. Visit sports complexes in other communities.**
- 25. Identify potential sites.**