

## HALLBERG ROAD COMMUNITY PARK ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

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### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the results of the Hallberg Community Park Engagement Survey be received for information.
2. That a Preliminary Concept Design for Hallberg Road Community Park be prepared, guided by the design direction established through the initial community engagement feedback.

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2024 the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) purchased the property at 3483 Hallberg Road to establish a new Community Park in the Cassidy area. The RDN then moved forward with community engagement and concept planning to guide the parks' development.

This report presents the results from the first round of community engagement and the recommended design direction for Hallberg Road Community Park.

The planning process is being led by RDN Parks staff, with support from Lanarc, a consulting firm specializing in parks planning and design.

The RDN invited public input through an online survey focused on how the park should be developed and which amenities should be provided. The survey was promoted through mailouts to nearby residences, and through posters and flyers displayed in key community locations. A dedicated project webpage on the Get Involved platform was also launched to serve as the main source of information and contact point for community members: <https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/hallberg-community-park>.

There were a total of 294 visits to the project website, with 154 becoming informed about the project and 60 people completing the survey. Overall, the feedback was positive, with over 80% of respondents expressing they were "very supportive" of improving Hallberg Road Community Park. Most survey participants lived within walking distance of the park, consistent with the fact that much of Cassidy is within a 10-15 minute walk of the site. Respondents represented a range of household types and age groups, including 11% seniors and over 50% with children or teenagers.

The top community priorities were to provide a safe place for kids to play, spaces for community gathering, activities for all ages and opportunities to spend time in the outdoors. Primary concerns raised included safety and security issues, lack of lighting at night, vandalism, encampments and traffic along Hallberg road. The Engagement Summary and detailed survey results are provided in Attachment 1.

## **Design Direction**

The design direction for Hallberg Road Community Park is informed by community engagement feedback and reflects the diverse needs of nearby residents. It prioritizes creating a safe, welcoming space with amenities that encourage play, social gathering, and outdoor activities for all ages, with safety and accessibility as key considerations.

- Focus on safe, inclusive gathering spaces for all ages
- Include a playground for all ages, picnic tables, and a covered shelter
- Provide a small sports court and seating areas for community use
- Provide open lawn and outdoor fitness or games areas as additional options
- Address community concerns related to safety, vandalism, traffic on Hallberg Road and encampments

## **Next Steps**

1. Develop a preliminary concept plan based on the design direction
2. Share the preliminary concept plan with the community for feedback
  - Open house: Thursday, July 3, 2025 between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Hallberg Road Community Park
3. Refine the concept plan based on findings from community engagement
4. Present the engagement findings, draft concept plan and preliminary costing at the September 17 EA A PRCC for review and input and seek a recommendation to proceed with detailed design and procurement

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 2025-2029 Financial Plan allocates \$300,000 in Community Works Funds within the 2025 Electoral Area A Community Parks and Halls capital budget for the public engagement, design and construction of Hallberg Road Community Park.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

Planning and Managing for Growth - Understand and develop an inter-connected framework of strategies and plans to manage growth to support complete communities, including planning, transportation, infrastructure, and fiscal sustainability.

## **REVIEWED BY:**

- E. McCulloch Acting Superintendent, Parks, Planning and Development
- R. Daykin, Manager, Parks Services
- T. Osborne, General Manager, Recreation and Parks
- L. Grant, A/Chief Administrative Officer

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Hallberg Road Community Park Engagement Summary