

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO DISTRICT 69 (OCEANSIDE) RECREATION SERVICES MASTER PLAN

# PUBLIC DRAFT MASTER PLAN REVIEW “WHAT WE HEARD” REPORT

JANUARY 2018









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# ONE

## OVERVIEW

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is developing a new Recreation Services Master Plan to guide the future provision of recreation and related services in District 69 for the next 10 years (District 69 encompasses the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Electoral Areas E, F, G, and H). The last Recreation Services Master Plan was completed in 2006.

A draft Master Plan was presented to the RDN Board of Directors in October 2017. As the development of the draft Master Plan involved significant engagement throughout early 2017, the project team wanted to ensure that the public and stakeholders were provided with an opportunity to review the draft Master Plan and provide input that will be considered in the refinement and finalization of the Master Plan.

Five public open house events were held in late November 2017:

- Monday, Nov 20, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Nanoose Place
- Tuesday, Nov 21, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
- Tuesday, Nov 21, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Arrowsmith Hall
- Wednesday, Nov 22, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Oceanside Place Arena
- Thursday, Nov 23, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Lighthouse Community Centre

Panels were provided at each open house event with an overview of the project process, key findings from the engagement and research, and the draft recommendations. A comment form was available for attendees to complete.

A PDF of the open house materials and a web based version of the comment form was also made available through the RDN's website. Residents were additionally able to provide comments in an online forum setting through the Get Involved RDN website.



# TWO

## KEY THEMES

In total 71 comments forms were completed by attendees at the open house events or online through the RDN website. Summarized below are the key themes from the feedback provided.

### **Perspectives on the Service Delivery Recommendations**

**(Question 1 on the comment form)**

- 33 comments indicated some level of agreement with the service delivery recommendations.
- 14 comments offered negative viewpoints or disagreement with the service delivery recommendations or suggested that further clarification or refinement is needed. The majority of these comments related to aquatics infrastructure (even though the question was not related to the infrastructure recommendations).
- 5 comments were provided on the need for the RDN to enhance the communication of recreation opportunities (3 of these comments were specific to the RDN website).
- 5 comments suggested that increased pickleball opportunities are needed and were not specifically identified in the service delivery recommendations.
- 3 comments suggested that the RDN should prioritize track and field opportunities (including facilities) more than it currently does.
- 2 comments were provided on the need to ensure adequate opportunities exist for youth.





## Perspectives on the Infrastructure Recommendations

- 22 comments indicated some level of agreement with the infrastructure recommendations.
- 13 comments expressed that a new track and field / outdoor multi- sport complex should be a higher priority in the Master Plan.
- Aquatics options:
  - » 12 comments suggested that the aquatics options presented are not sufficient and that a new and larger scale facility is required (e.g. 50 metre pool on a new site).
  - » 8 comments supported Option 2 as presented (expansion of the existing aquatics facility, addition of two lanes to the existing main tank and the addition of a wellness centre).
  - » 6 comments supported Option 1 as presented (expansion of the existing aquatics facility and the addition of a wellness centre).
  - » 6 comments expressed opposition to any aquatics facility expansion.
- 5 comments expressed overall displeasure / dissatisfaction with the infrastructure recommendations (new specific reason(s) provided).
- 4 comments reiterated the importance of sustaining curling in District 69 (through either the existing facilities or a new facility).
- 4 comments expressed the need for a multi-purpose indoor recreation facility.
- 2 comments suggested that more attention needs to be given to the geographic distribution of facilities.
- 2 comments indicated that more attention needs to be given to trails and park spaces in the Master Plan.

## Additional/Overall Comments on the Master Plan

- 8 comments reiterated the need for a higher prioritization of track and field in the Master Plan.
- 7 comments reiterated the need for pool upgrades or a new facility.
- 5 comments referred to the growth and need to provide more pickleball spaces or times.
- 5 comments on the important of curling.
- 4 comments identified other infrastructure needs not specifically identified in the Master Plan recommendations (1 comment on racquetball courts, 1 comment on signage, 1 comment on general needs for space, 1 comment on cycling infrastructure).
- 3 comments on the benefits of developing a multi-purpose recreation facility.
- 3 comments on the need to enhance programming opportunities.
- 3 comments expressing general dissatisfaction with the Master Plan.
- 2 comments on the need for focus more on seniors' recreation in the Master Plan.



## Location of Residency

Area	#
City of Parksville	20
Town of Qualicum Beach	11
Area E	18
Area F	5
Area G	7
Area H	1
Other	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

\* 9 respondents did not indicate their location of residency.



# APPENDICES

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# A

## OPEN HOUSE COMMENT FORM

# OPEN HOUSE FEEDBACK FORM



*Please consider the presentation materials when providing your feedback. Feedback provided from residents and stakeholders will be used to refine and finalize the Master Plan.*

1. Do you agree with the **Service Delivery and Programming** Recommendations?

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2. Do you agree with the **Infrastructure** Recommendations?

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- [illegible]

- ☐ City of Parksville  
☐ Town of Qualicum Beach  
☐ Electoral Area E  
☐ Electoral Area F  
☐ Electoral Area G  
☐ Electoral Area H  
☐ Other (please specify):

# B

## DISPLAY PANELS



# DISTRICT 69 (OCEANSIDE)

## DRAFT RECREATION SERVICES MASTER PLAN

### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

(What is the Master Plan looking to achieve?)

- Determine future roles and responsibilities for the provision of recreation (and related) opportunities in District 69.
- Clarify future roles and responsibilities.
- Identify programming focus areas and tactics for addressing new and emerging trends.
- Identify opportunities to optimize the efficiency, sustainability and utilization of existing facilities.
- Strategies to address key infrastructure issues and questions, including:
  - » Future needs for indoor aquatics (potential Ravensong Aquatic Centre Expansion).
  - » Need and feasibility for an outdoor multi-sport complex.
  - » Future of the District 69 Community Arena (Parksville Curling Club facility).
  - » Community needs for indoor programming and wellness spaces.

\* District 69 includes the City of Parksville; Town of Qualicum Beach; and Electoral Areas E, F, G, and H.



## PROJECT METHODOLOGY

(How was the draft Master Plan developed?)

### Project Process



### Public and Stakeholder Engagement

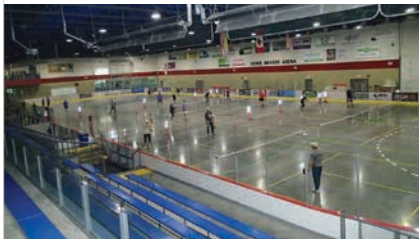
A number of consultation mechanisms were used to gather feedback and perspectives from residents, stakeholders and user groups.

Consultation Mechanism	Responses/ Participants
Resident Survey	1,687
Community Group Questionnaire	60
Stakeholder Interviews/Discussions	29 <i>(interviews/discussion sessions)</i>



## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE RESIDENT SURVEY

- Overall, satisfaction levels for RDN provided recreation services in District 69 are strong and have improved over the past decade.
  - » 80% of residents expressed satisfaction with the current provision of recreation services; this figure has increased by 13% since 2006.
- Recreation services and opportunities are highly valued by residents.
  - » 97% of residents indicated that recreation is important to their household's quality of life (69% believe that it is "very important").
  - » 99% of residents indicated that recreation is important to the community in which they live (82% believe that it is "very important").
- Among District 69 households, some level of demand exists for new and enhanced facilities.
  - » 51% of households believe that new or enhanced indoor recreation facilities are needed in District 69.
  - » 49% of households believe that there is a need for new or enhanced parks and outdoor recreation spaces.



## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE RESIDENT SURVEY

### Resident Survey: Infrastructure Priorities

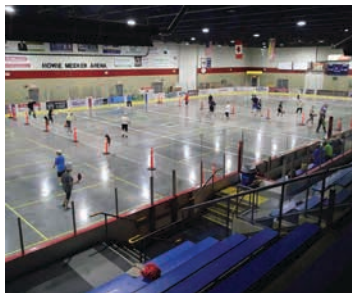
Indoor Facility Priorities			
#	Type	Want New	Want Existing Enhanced
1	Indoor Swimming Pool	39%	26%
2	Health and Wellness/Fitness Centre	35%	19%
3	Multi-purpose Recreation Facility	33%	14%
4	Performing Arts Centre	18%	16%
5	Teen/Youth Centre	22%	11%
6	Seniors Centre	14%	18%
7	Ice Arena	2%	17%

Outdoor Facility Priorities			
#	Type	Want New	Want Existing Enhanced
1	Walking/Hiking Trails	45%	39%
2	Natural Parks and Protected Areas	36%	32%
3	Picnic Areas and Passive Parks	27%	30%
4	Bicycle/Roller Blade Paths	31%	20%
5	Playgrounds	14%	20%
6	Track and Field Facility	13%	13%
7	Sport Fields	8%	15%



## SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE USER GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

- Stakeholder and user groups identified a number of preferences for new and enhanced facilities, often pertaining to their program or activity.
  - » Sport field user groups expressed that more premium quality fields (natural and/or synthetic turf) would help enhance their program and event hosting capabilities.
  - » The benefits of developing a new indoor multi-purpose recreation facility was expressed during a number of the stakeholder and user group discussions.
- Ensuring that recreation programming is geographically distributed throughout District 69 was identified as being important for many groups.
  - » The current use of decommissioned school sites in District 69 for recreation and community programming was identified as having positive local impacts.
  - » Some concerns were expressed over the impact that the development of a new indoor multi-purpose recreation facility could have on smaller facilities and the local availability of programming.
- A lack of a critical mass of youth was commonly identified as impacting programming opportunities for younger residents.
- User groups and stakeholders generally expressed positive sentiments towards RDN recreation staff, but would like to continue to work to improve communications and collaborations.





## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE PROJECT RESEARCH

- District 69 has diverse demographics and population characteristics that influence recreational pursuits and interests (i.e. age, income, culture, community type).
- Population growth has been moderate in District 69 over the past decade.
  - » The current population of District 69 is 46,665 residents. Population projections anticipate that the population could range between approximately 51,000 and 57,000 residents within ten years.
- The majority of major RDN operated facilities in District 69 are well utilized and have a strong mix of opportunities.
  - » Available data supports that capacity issues exist at the Ravensong Aquatic Centre during peak times.
- A number of local, regional and provincial trends are impacting recreational preferences and demands, including:
  - » Increasing demands for “unstructured” and “spontaneous” opportunities.
  - » Diversifying activity interests, in some cases impacting traditional activities.
  - » Preference for multi-purpose “hub” facilities with multiple amenities and spaces that can accommodate a wide array of programs.
- While current operational roles and responsibilities between the RDN, municipalities within District 69, and community partner organizations are generally well understood; less clarity exists pertaining to future responsibilities for planning and capital development.



# MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

The Master Plan contains a total of 34 recommendations that provide future direction over the next ten years across the following areas of recreation services.

- **Service Delivery and Programming:** How will the RDN provide recreation services?
- **Infrastructure:** How will the RDN prioritize future facility investment and maximize the benefits that current facilities provide to residents and user groups?

Provided on the following display panels is an overview of the recommendations.

Feedback provided at the open houses will be used to further refine and finalize the Master Plan.



## SUMMARY OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- The RDN should undertake a governance review for recreation service provision in District 69. The review should focus on:
  - » Opportunities to maximize overall efficiency.
  - » Establishing a refreshed mandate for all involved entities (i.e. review terms of references for commission/committees, advisory groups, project working groups, etc.).
  - » Clarifying decision making responsibilities.
- The RDN should sustain the current organizational model and delivery model for recreation services in District 69.
  - » Continue to utilize a combination of direct and indirect delivery methods.
- Continue to place a priority on cross-sectoral collaborations (i.e. with the health care sector, education providers, arts and cultural groups, etc.) and invest additional resources in this area.
- Develop and implement a more specific engagement framework (to help guide future projects and initiatives).
- Work with local municipalities and School District 69 to clarify roles and responsibilities pertaining to future recreation planning and capital development.
- Allocate additional resources to community group capacity building (e.g. assist groups with volunteer recruitment, skill development, strategic planning, etc.).
- Continue to strategically utilize project/initiative focused groups such as steering committees and “task forces” on an ad-hoc basis.





## SUMMARY OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Program focus areas of the future should include:
  - » Nature interaction and outdoor skill development for children and youth; activity camps for children/youth/teens; and fitness and wellness programming for adults and seniors.
  - » A diversity and balance of opportunities for all ages and ability levels.
  - » Continued offerings of arts and culture programs within the program “mix” of RDN Recreation Services. Where possible opportunities to expand arts and culture programming should be explored.
- Continue to prioritize accessibility and ensure that all residents are able to experience the benefits of recreation.
  - » Sustain the Financial Assistance Program and Inclusion Support Program.
  - » Further engage with community partners and other organizations to increase the awareness of the above programs.
  - » Consider supporting the start-up of a local KidSport chapter in District 69.
- Continue to place a priority on the marketing of recreation programs and opportunities in District 69.
- Recommended strategic initiatives:
  - » Development of a Community Events Support Strategy.
  - » Development of an Older Adults/Age Friendly Strategy.
  - » Update of the Youth Recreation Strategic Plan.



## INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Indoor Aquatics Recommendations

- Based on current population size, market demand and programming needs it is deemed that one indoor aquatics facility is sufficient to serve District 69.
- Three potential options were identified to enhance indoor aquatics provision in District 69.
- Each of the options also includes a small scale wellness facility as this type of facility could be efficiently developed within the project scope and help offset operating costs.

*\* Additional details of the three indoor aquatics options are provided on the next display panels.*



## INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

### Indoor Aquatics Options

Option	Description	Capital Costs
<b>Option 1: Addition of a New Leisure Aquatics and Small Lap Pool Area and Wellness Centre</b>	<p><i>* Reflects the optimal option (Approach #2) as identified in the 2010 expansion study.</i></p> <p>New leisure aquatics focused area and a small lap pool (3 lanes) to increase lane swimming and program space capacity. The addition would also include a medium scale fitness/wellness facility (~4,500 ft<sup>2</sup>) and a new multi-purpose room. Upgrades would also occur to amenity spaces such as change rooms, lobby areas, and public circulation spaces (including the potential re-configuration of the main entry areas).</p>	\$8,676,752
<b>Option 2: Option 1 With the Addition of Two (2) Lanes to the Existing Program Tank</b>	In addition to the upgrades identified in Option 1, the existing program tank would be expanded by 2 lanes. This option would require the hot pool to be relocated into the new leisure and 3 lane lap pool area and will eliminate the existing small leisure pool.	\$10,931,002
<b>Option 3: Replacement (New Facility Development)</b>	<p>A replacement new facility would be constructed using the general parameters outlined in Option 2, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 lane x 25 metre program tank</li> <li>• Dedicated leisure aquatics area</li> <li>• ~4,500 ft<sup>2</sup> fitness/wellness facility</li> <li>• Multi-purpose room</li> </ul>	<p>\$20,030,124</p> <p><i>(excluding site purchase and costs)</i></p>

*A scoring metric was developed and used to rank the three potential options based on considerations such as cost (capital and operating), community and user group benefits, and impacts on existing facilities.*

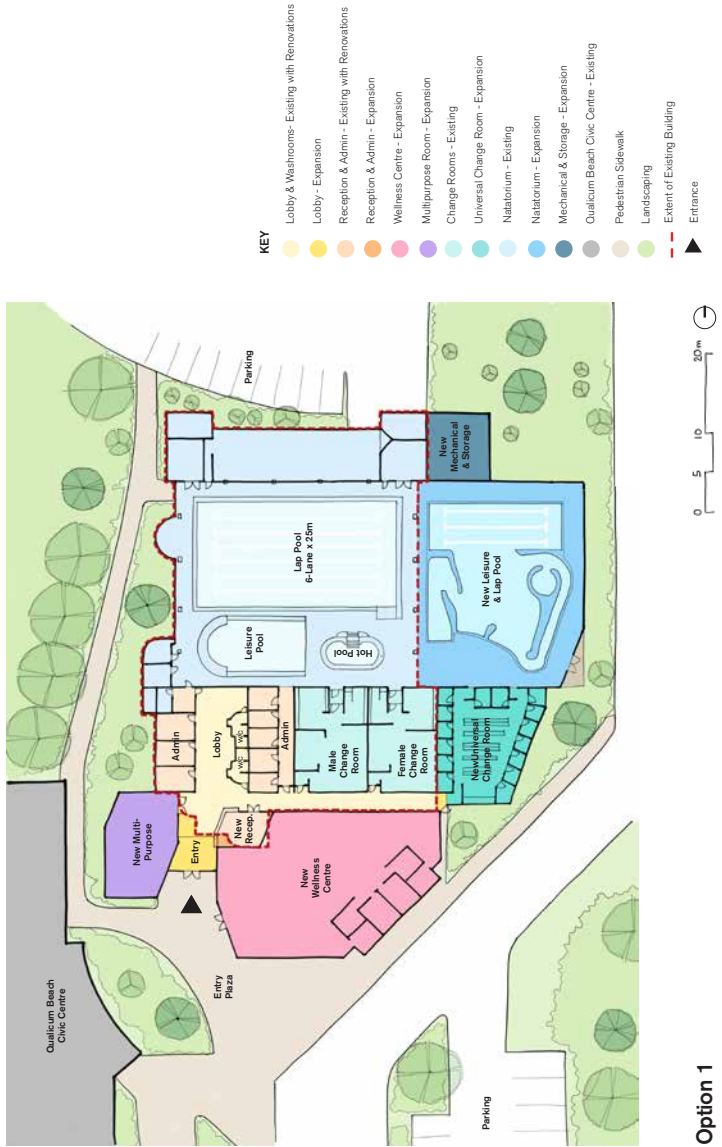
*Based on this scoring, Option 1 and Option 2 were both deemed as strong options (Option 1 scored slightly higher than Option 2). Option 3 is not deemed to be a strong or viable option.*





# OPTION 1

(Addition of a new leisure aquatics and 3 lane lap pool area, fitness/wellness centre and amenity upgrades/re-configuration.)



Option 1

\* Concept image only. Refinement of the facility layout and amenities will occur if the project moves forward into detailed design.



## OPTION 2

(Same component additions as Option 1 plus the addition of two swimming lanes to the existing lap pool. The addition of the main lap pool by two lanes would require the hot pool to be relocated into the new leisure & 3 lane lap pool and will eliminate the existing small leisure pool.)



\* Concept image only. Refinement of the facility layout and amenities will occur if the project moves forward into detailed design.

## INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **District 69 Arena** (Parksville Curling Club):
  - » Curling is the most appropriate type of use for the facility at present time.
  - » The RDN should work collaboratively with the City, Town and curling stakeholders to determine future needs for curling facilities in the region.
    - \* These discussions will be required as both curling facilities in the region are ageing and the City of Parksville's Community Park Master Plan suggests alternative uses for the site in the future.
- **Sport field** recommendations:
  - » Work with partners (City, Town, School District 69) to make better use of underutilized fields.
  - » Defer the development of a full scale outdoor multi-sport complex for at least five years.
  - » Monitor sport field utilization for 3 – 5 years, and if warranted consider retrofitting an existing grass field to artificial turf.
- **Fitness and Wellness Centre** recommendations:
  - » Identify opportunities to integrate a dedicated medium scale fitness and wellness space into an existing facility (e.g. Ravensong Centre expansion).
  - » Revisit a larger scale fitness and wellness space in ten years (as part of a new multi-purpose facility development of major expansion project).
- **Community program space** recommendations:
  - » Continue to place a priority on maximizing the use of current facilities and spaces and ensure geographic balance.
  - » Re-visit the need for a new indoor multi-purpose recreation facility in 5 years.
- Optimize use of the leisure ice space (Oceanside Pond) at Oceanside Place. Consider repurposing if utilization cannot be increased.
- Ensure that RDN Recreation Services are involved as a stakeholder in future parks, trails and open space planning.
- Develop a sponsorship and naming policy and strategy.
- Conduct a Recreation Facility Needs Assessment every 5 years and use this information to "refresh" the Master Plan.
- Develop and implement a Facility Project Development Framework (standard planning process) to help inform future decision and maximize transparency.



## PROMOTIONAL POSTER

# HELP US PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF RECREATION

The Regional District of Nanaimo is developing a Recreation Services Master Plan for District 69 (Oceanside).



This November, **get involved** provide your feedback on the **Draft Recreation Services Master Plan for District 69 (Oceanside)**.

Mon, Nov 20, 5:30-7:30 pm, Nanoose Place  
Tue, Nov 21, 1:00-3:00 pm, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre  
Tue, Nov 21, 5:30-7:30 pm, Arrowsmith Hall  
Wed, Nov 22, 5:30-7:30 pm, Oceanside Place Arena  
Thu, Nov 23, 5:30-7:30 pm, Lighthouse Community Ctr

\*Children's activity corner available at each open house\*

**Get involved RDN** [rdn.bc.ca/recreation](http://rdn.bc.ca/recreation) or  
call 250-248-3252 or 250-752-5014















