



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council

File No.: 07710-20 P&R MP

From: Chief Administrative Officer

Date: April 29, 2019

Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Feedback Summary

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to outline the public feedback received from January 23 to February 22, 2019 based on the draft parks and recreation master plan.

CAO RECOMMENDATIONS:

That based on the April , 2019 staff report “Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Feedback Summary”, Council adopt OPTION 1 and direct Staff to incorporate the recommended changes from the attached final community engagement comments in the draft parks and Recreation Master Plan and proceed to a Final Draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

David Allen, BES, CLGEM, SCLGM
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

At the January 21, 2019 council meeting, Council accepted the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan in principle; and directed staff to issue the draft for public comment over a one month duration.

The draft plan was posted online and a hard copy was made available to the public at the following locations: City Hall, Lewis Centre, Florence Filberg Centre, the LINC Youth Centre, Public Works and the Courtenay Library. Questions and feedback were received by email and in person during a one month period from January 23rd to February 22, 2019.

Stakeholder groups who had participated in the community focus workshops were notified by email to provide an opportunity for feedback. Furthermore, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was presented the draft report at the February 7, 2019 meeting and the Commission’s feedback has been incorporated as part of the Comments Summary attached.

DISCUSSION:

During the month of February, 30 comments were received from the public and various community organizations. Staff have summarized the comments and categorized them according to the main areas covered by the plan:

- Community Overview
- Community Input
- Outdoor Recreation:
 - Parkland Supply
 - Park Amenities Capital Development
 - Park Design and Development
 - Trails
- Indoor Recreation:
 - Indoor Recreation Facilities
 - Programs and Services

Attachment A shows the summary of comment areas, what the master plan currently says, proposed changes and notes. Each summary comment is numbered. The numbers have been inserted into Attachment B where the issue is raised in the original feedback.

Staff responded to each email that was received, by either addressing the question raised or by acknowledging receipt. There are some comments that are outside the scope of the master plan. Where the comment was relevant to another department, the email was forwarded to the appropriate staff member. Staff comments were included in the development of the draft so there are few feedback comments from staff shown in the documents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The master plan is a guiding document that doesn't commit the City to the financial implications of implementation. Initiatives will be addressed through one of the following methods:

- Established by Council as a strategic priority
- Risk, asset or infrastructure issues will be evaluated by the Asset Management Working Group and proposed to Council with other similar initiatives.
- New items or service level changes will be proposed to Council through the budget process.

The implementation plan is a separate document that identifies the priority of each recommendation and the relative cost.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

The Recreation and Cultural Services Department has managed the development of this document and will work with Council to implement any approved recommendations. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission will also make recommendations on initiatives and will report to council as needed.

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Master plans provide guidance to Council and the Asset Management Working Group. They help staff identify synergies between the current issues and future plans in order to execute projects with maximum efficiency.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

The following strategic priorities will apply:

We focus on organizational and governance excellence

- Support and encourage initiatives to improve efficiencies
- Recognize staff capacity is a finite resource and support staff training and development
- Communicate appropriately with our community in all decisions we make
- Responsibly provide services at levels which the people we serve are willing to pay

We proactively plan and invest in our natural and built environment

- Focus on asset management for sustainable service delivery
- ▲ Look for regional infrastructure solutions for shared services
- ▲ Continue to support Arts and Culture

We continually invest in our key relationships

- Value and recognize the importance of our volunteers
- Consider effective ways to engage with and partner for the health and safety of the community
- ▲ Support improving accessibility to all City services

- **AREA OF CONTROL:** The policy, works and programming matters that fall within Council's jurisdictional authority to act
- ▲ **AREA OF INFLUENCE:** Matters that fall within shared or agreed jurisdiction between Council and another government or party
- **AREA OF CONCERN:** Matters of interest that are outside Council's jurisdictional authority to act

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REFERENCE:

The OCP identifies the following vision:

The vision for the City of Courtenay is for a City that is unique and different from other communities. It is to become the most liveable community in the province. It can be expressed as having:

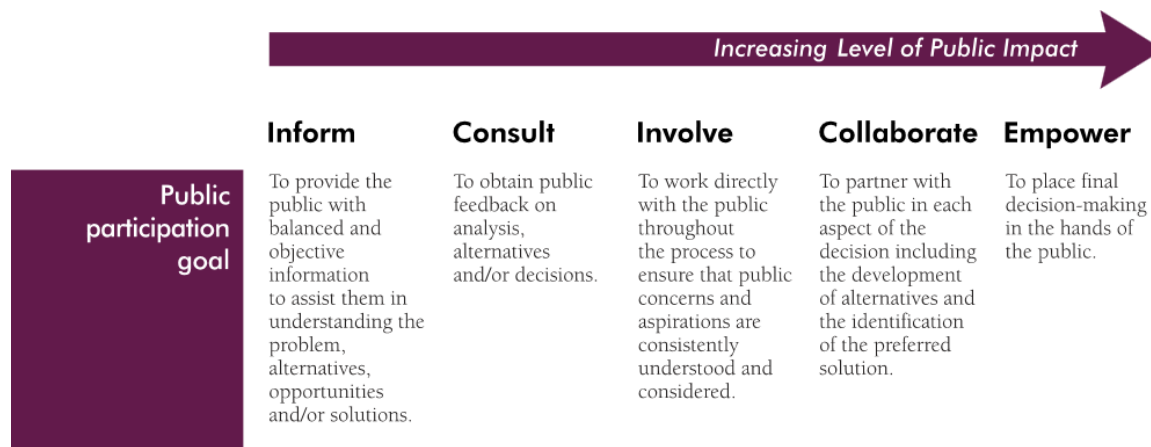
- *an inclusive, open and caring community*
- *commitment to continued excellence*
- *a strong downtown*
- *the ability to ensure a high level of aesthetic and architectural design*
- *a reputation as the premier regional centre for arts and culture*
- *balance and ability to lead growth and the provision of services*
- *a role to be the centre of commerce for the Comox Valley*
- *an expanding parks, natural areas and greenways system*
- *a strategy to lead in environmental protection*

- *commitment to serve youth and seniors*
- *support for a viable agricultural economy and ensure the protection of agricultural Lands*

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY REFERENCE: No specific reference

CITIZEN/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff have **consulted** with the community through the engagement processes identified above as identified in the *IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation*.



OPTIONS:

1. Direct staff to incorporate the recommended changes from the attached final Community Engagement Comments in the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and proceed to a Final Draft of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2. Council refer this item back to staff for further consideration or consultation.
3. Council refer this matter to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for advice.

Prepared by:

Dave Snider *BCSLA*
 Director of Recreation and Cultural Services

Attachments:

1. Summary of Community Engagement Comments and Recommendations
2. Full list of Community Engagement Comments

Summary of Community Engagement Comments and Recommendations

Comment Origin	Comment	What the Master Plan currently says	Suggested Changes	Notes
Context and Purpose				
1 Respondent 9	Questioning why respondents who do not live in Courtenay are taken into consideration of the Master Plan	Parks and recreation services are not operated with resident and non-resident rates or approaches. Addressed in Section 1.1	None needed	Staff responded to the inquiry in more detail.
Community Overview				
2	Consider large number of families moving into the community and account for their parks and recreation needs	Embedded in Master plan	None needed	
Community Input				
3 Resident Group	Consider First Nations cultural needs in all areas of the plan	Section 2.2 has an objective to "Increase the Indigenous and multi-cultural aspects of programs"	Add Indigenous communities to Next Step collaboration; also mention First Nation's collaboration in more places within plan	
Outdoor Recreation:				
Parkland Supply				
4 Comox Valley Conservation Partnership (CVCP)	Block 71 should be referenced along with the amount of parkland needed to maintain per capita provision levels within Courtenay as a whole and Block 71 in particular	Figure 3.1 generally identifies parkland supply standards. Figure 3.3 does not specifically show parkland needs in this area.	Clarify the expectations that will be placed on developers based on the standards in Figure 3.1	Without site analysis and a proposed layout, meaningful parkland locations are hard to identify. The quantity of parkland will depend on undefined population expectations.
5	Open spaces such as the Courtenay Estuary and Kus Kus Sum property are mentioned briefly but should be prioritized as open spaces that draw increased recreational traffic and will require detailed cooperative park planning with other land agencies and estuary managers.	Section 3.1 lists this area under Other Lands with Park Values	More information on these lands could be added to section 3.1. A new park label can be added on the Kus Kus Sum property on Map 2.	Proposed park parcels are not identified explicitly in plan as land transactions are confidential. However the The development of Kus Kus Sum is unique yet not finalized.
6	The Municipal Natural Asset Inventory should be referenced	Not mentioned in Master Plan	The Municipal Natural Asset Inventory can be referenced as a relevant future associated document.	The sequencing of the release of these documents is the main issue.
7	Consider aligning with the CVLT Land Protection Plan to support the PRC Master Plan acquisition strategy.	Not mentioned in Master Plan	No change to the current document. Consider integration in future revisions.	Environmental protection is just outside the scope of this document. This document can inform the OCP revision and Urban Forest Strategy along with future parks master plans.
8 Resident Group	Develop Harmston Park as the Downtown Civic Park and plan more green spaces in the Downtown Core for community events	Portion of Harmston recommended as park page 22, 3.2.2; park space is recommended downtown page 25	None needed	
9	Revise zoning to ensure that all parks are included	Recommendation 3.1.5 identifies this need	None needed	
10	Establish priorities for park land acquisition and funding solutions	Master Plan identifies target locations	None needed	The implementation plan will give more detail

11		Buy Courtenay Car Service lot at 5th Street and Comox Road as a park to get a view	Not mentioned in Master Plan	None needed	Proposed park parcels are not identified explicitly in plan as land transactions are confidential. Although this purchase would benefit adjacent parks, park provision in this area is identified as sufficient.
Park Amenities Capital Development					
12	Resident Group	Pursue joint use site development agreement with School District	Recommendations 3.3.2 and 4.2.5 and Section 5 address collaboration with School District	None needed	
13		Support year round access and programs at the Community Garden	Community garden groups could request this, operational issue	None needed	
14	Respondent 14	Consider including all school community gardens in the City of Courtenay boundaries (Vanier S.S, Mark Isfeld, Valley View S.S., Nala'astsi.)	Two school community gardens are mentioned in Master Plan	Revise to say there are "multiple" community gardens at schools	
15		Consider use of edible plants in park design	Edible gardens are considered within urban agriculture	Add urban agriculture to 3.3.11, could also mention edible plants in particular	Typically in designated areas with gardianship.
16		General support for pickleball and interest in working with Comox Valley Pickle Ball Association	Popularity and growth of pickleball are recognized and new courts are recommended	None needed	
17	Respondent 9	Questioning of a need for pickleball in Courtenay	The demand identified in the master plan as well as the community feedback suggests that it's appropriate for Courtenay to make provision for this sport	None needed	
18		Proposal of a viewing deck behind Native Sons Hall.	This specific project is not identified in the master plan		
Park Design and Development					
19	Respondent 8	Establish a new tubing entry downstream of the Puntledge River Fish Hatchery	Tubing down the river is not an officially endorsed activity by the City and therefore not addressed in Master Plan	None needed	
20		Include all members of a neighbourhood in park planning	Master Plan mentions need to obtain input from park users and stakeholders and to obtain community input on plan options	None needed	
21	CVCP	Partner with CVLT to develop park managemnet plans for Hurford Hill Nature Park and Sandwich Forest	Operational suggestion	None needed	
22		Urban tree planting and riparian restoration needs to be explored in more depth especially in reference to increasing the role of community partnerships in park spaces	3.2.1 addresses planting of trees in parks	None needed. Addressed in the Urban Forest Strategy	
23	Respondent 20	Desire for access to McPhee Meadows and involvement in park planning	Master Plan recommends a community engagement process for this park plan	None needed	
24		Desire for giving Woodcote Park more of a park character and more landscaping	Master Plan recommended tree planting, a perimeter pathway, seating, and amenities desired by the neighbourhood in Woodcote Park	None needed	
25		More benches and accessible furnishings along trails and community parks	More benches are recommended in parks and along trails	None needed	
26	Respondent 11	Additional well marked park water fountains/ bottle filling stations	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add a comment that fountains be added at community parks and high-use trails where existing infrastructure supports the new services.	
27		Consider a memorial walkway in Pinegrove Park to replace Memorial Bench Program	Not mentioned in the Master Plan	None needed	Suitable as an idea to bring to a park planning process

28	Bike Coalition	Include bike skills park in Courtenay	Master Plan suggests a possible neighbourhood level bike skills park in 3.3.8; noted that primary bike skills park is in Cumberland	None needed	
29	Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC)	Playground replacement should be prioritized	Operational suggestion	None needed	Operations have a prioritized list that will be included in the implementation plan
Trails					
30	Bike Coalition	Support for trail connectivity, especially in East Courtenay	Master Plan proposes new trail connections, including East Courtenay	None needed	
31	Respondent 21	Concern about trail #15 and effects on residential property	Document identifies an aspiration for a waterfront trail, implementation will involve collaboration with upland owners	None needed	Concerns were thoughtfully presented. Staff responded to the email directly.
32		Guidelines for trails on or adjacent to private property should consider and engage with affected landowners at an early stage to minimize invading on owners, and explore options such as road easements or rights-of-way on property peripheries, shoreline causeways, and reducing trail widths.	Master Plan identifies community consultation to be critical.	None needed	Operationally the project manager would explore design options to reduce impacts to neighbours.
33		Use existing informal trails, wide shoulders, and low-traffic roads as interim routes until such time as mapped routes may become available or feasible	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add a sub-bullet with this information to recommendation 3.4.1	
34		Add more design standards for trails similar to what is included for parks in 3.2.1 and 3.2.2	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add design considerations for trails to recommendation 3.4.1 or another bullet in that section	
35	CVCP	Improving connectivity within and between parks spaces and linking key environmentally sensitive areas, e.g., riparian areas	3.1.7 implies but is not specific about this	Add a sub-bullet to recommendation 3.1.7 mentioning habitat connectivity, especially along riparian corridors	
36		Quantify recent parkland subdivision dedication in the form of trails	Master Plan does not mention this, but unclear how it would change recommendations	None needed	
37	Resident Group	Support safe, connected and accessible walking and cycling trails	Embedded in trails section of Master Plan	None needed	
38		Instead of a pedestrian bridge on 6th Street, consider a bridge from 3rd Street to Riverside Park	Not in Master Plan	None needed	A 3rd St. crossing is not in keeping with the recommendations of the transportation MP. 3rd Street does not fulfill the objectives that 6th street does.
39	Bike Coalition	In urban trail connections consider feasible zig zag trail as opposed to stairs so there is bicycle and scooter accessibility	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add a sub-bullet with this suggestion "instead of or in addition to stairs where feasible" to recommendation 3.4.1	
40		Trail connections routes - ensure proper sidewalk let downs and remove non-conforming let downs to remove trip hazards and improve accessibility	Sidewalks are covered in Transportation Master Plan	None needed	
41		Connect parks to safe routes to school (e.g., Puntledge Park to Lake Trail school)	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add a sub-bullet to recommendation 3.4.1 that trails should integrate with Safe Routes to School where appropriate	Transportation Master Plan encourages reestablishment of Safe Routes to School program

42		Improve trails in Sandwick Park and restore trail around ponds in Muir/McLauchlin Park	Management Plan is recommended for Sandwick Park. Benches are suggested for Muir McLauchlin Park	None needed	Recommendation to restore trails around ponds in Muir McLauchlin Park would be addressed operationally
43	Respondent 20	Alternate trail from Anderton Avenue to McPhee Meadows – along 2 nd or 3 rd Street	Master Plan proposes route as a desire line along the river, but if not possible, 1st, 2nd or 3rd Streets could be used	None needed, long-term vision	
44	PRAC	A focus on accessibility on trails	Addressed in 1.4, 2.2 vision, and 3.2.1	None needed	
45	Respondent 18	A trail heading west through Millard Parks and Anfield Rd right of way to Fraser Rd./ logging Rd. Intersection as mentioned in the South Courtenay Area Plan should also be considered.	The trail connection is noted on Map 3 as a proposed trail	None needed	
46		Build south Riverway trail soon	Timing will be addressed in implementation plan	None needed	
47		At least one multipurpose route from West Courtenay to East Courtenay soon.	Timing will be addressed in implementation plan	None needed	
48		Need for maintenance on Hurford Trail	Operational suggestion	None needed	
49		Question on the phasing of park at 5th and railway regarding it's timeline, intended look, and how much railway property is involved.	Subject to community consultation. Staff responded to the inquiry in more detail.	None needed	
50	Respondent 22	Question regarding the timeline of trail from The Ridge to the oceanfront.	Subject to budget and project approval. Staff responded to the inquiry in more detail.	None needed	
51		Question regarding the timeline of trail from Beechwood to Courtenay River Walk	Subject to budget and project approval. Staff responded to the inquiry in more detail.	None needed	

Indoor Recreation:

Indoor Recreation Facilities

52	Resident Group	Engage with CVRD to develop a regional facility plan	Although not addressed as a general statement, it's addressed specifically in Vision and Goals, 3.3.3, 4.1.2, 4.1.7, 4.1.12, 4.2.3, and 4.4	None needed	
53		Expand aquatic sites and programs	The Courtenay and District Memorial pool asset is addressed in sections 4.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and programming is addressed in 4.2. The document calls for further assessment.	None needed	The only aquatic sites and programs that are run by Courtenay are at the outdoor pool. The Aquatic Centre is a regional function.
54		Consider shared indoor facilities for pickleball, tennis, and other multi-use groups	Recommended for sports 4.1.6, tennis 4.1.7, tennis/pickleball 4.1.12, and culture 4.4.1	None needed	

Programs and Services

55	Resident Group	Affiliate within the framework of the C.Valley Health Network	Not mentioned in Master Plan as specific groups are not singled out. Partnerships are promoted in 4.2.7	None needed	
56		Consideration for programs and services for all ages	All age groups are considered in the plan	None needed	
57		Regional focus for program and services	One pass system is suggested in 4.2.3. Although not addressed as a general statement, it's addressed specifically in Vision and goals, 3.3.3, 4.1.2, 4.1.7, 4.1.12, 4.2.3, and 4.4	None needed	Operationally the recreation staff continue to work across boarders to ensure that services are complementary

Next Steps

58	CVCP	Master Plan does not include funding and funding sources needed for the next 10 years	Will be addressed in the implementation plan in a separate document	None needed	
59	Resident Group	Require developers to provide inside and outside amenities	This point is made in the trail section and will be part of the implementation plan	Clarify the expectations that should be placed on developers for amenity contributions	
60		Encourage neighbourhood involvement in Tree Bylaw implementation	Not in Master Plan as it is mandate of Urban Forest Strategy	None needed	
61		Acknowledgement there may be budget constraints relative to phasing and execution of the plan.	Next Steps section comments that the plan is subject to budget constraints, prioritises and doesn't commit Council to any works	None needed	
62	PRAC	Support of sponsorship programs	Not identified in Master Plan	None Needed	This is a good topic for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and inclusion in the implimentation plan

Appendix A

63	CVCP	List of relevant documents does not include updated Subdivision Development Services Bylaw, in-process Urban Forest Strategy and the upcoming Integrated Rainwater Management Plan	Not mentioned in Master Plan	Add to Appendix A	
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Staff Comments

64	General	Various edits submitted on graphics, typos, and inaccuracies within Master Plan			
65	Parks	Pickleball courts would not fit at Valleyview Park and SD71 court availability would not satisfy the PBA	3.2.5 suggests that Pickleball/tennis courts could be considered in Valley View park	Remove this reference.	
66		Some linear parks (buffer areas) require further consideration - staff recommend a linear park study to develop options	3.4.4		
67		Proposed improvements to Woodcote park don't require a park plan but only minor capital allocations			
68	Development Services	Question if there are park land distribution targets for nature parks, with all the research on the importance of contact with nature.	Parkland quantity standards are identified in Figure 3.1 and typically refer to active parkland provisions. Existing and proposed park locations are identified on Map 2	Consider a paragraph describing natural area provision standards and acquisition methods	The population based standard is not generally used for natural areas since they can be acquired by various methods and other regulations. Staff responded to the inquiry directly.
69		Design recommendation about pedestrian corridors being 6m to accomodate greenspace and preserve trees. Urban Forest Strategy consultants recommend 20 m range when preserving mature trees as part of a greenway network. Suggestion of greenway widths being mentioned in Master Plan.	6m wide trail corridor widths are identified as minimums in section 3.1.2 Wider is preferred (section 3.4.5) but would have to be negotiated with developers.	No change to the current document. Consider integration with Urban Forest Strategy in future revisions.	
70		Referring to acquisition priorities, recommendation of referencing the outcome of the Urban Forest Strategy.		No change to the current document. Consider integration with Urban Forest Strategy in future revisions.	
71	Village of Cumberland	Village of Cumberland supports trail connectivity to regional trail networks	Included in Master Plan	The graphic should be modified to be more obvious (larger arrows)	
72	Cumberland	Continue supporting regional leads in developing services that are unique to each jurisdiction	Regional cooperation is included in Master Plan, Next Steps, and elsewhere	None needed	

	<i>Out of Scope</i>	<i>Responses and Context</i>
73	Concern for hurting golf courses that could possibly use more business.	Private interest that's outside the scope of the master plan
74	Respondent 8 Support the continuance of 55+ hockey at the Sports Centre	Regional service
75	Respondent 20 Possibility of a pedestrian greenway on England.	Road side greenways are outside the scope of the master plan
76	Resident Group	Support access, including monitoring and compliance of watershed issues
77		Establish Estuary and Kus-Kus-Sum Coordinating Committees
78		Support a Campus Plan development for Puntledge and Lake Trail schools
79		Establish a Youth Advisory Committee with SD 71
80		Implement a total ban on wood burning- Airshed Task Group
81		Support the development of Neighbourhood Associations for local planning- the catchment area of an elementary school
82	Showcase alternative energy technologies	Operational suggestion - Not in Master Plan scope

Full list of Community Engagement Comments

Respondent 1

Comment Summary – 18

On Page 26 of the new Courtenay Parks and Recreation community report, concern was expressed about '*challenges with the downtown core parks*'. My suggestion below would help.

Provide a public viewing and lunch plaza deck to overlook the Courtenay River and community areas. There is not a downtown public viewing area for tourists and the general public to meet in a quiet place..

The proposed plaza deck area is on city property. Existing parking will not be affected. Wheelchair plaza deck access is necessary. Wheelchair access to Filberg Centre is needed.

Looking from the Native Son's porch railing, you can see the sloped area that could be built up to provide a nice public viewing and lunch area.

The plaza deck could be fairly long and wide. The city property to be utilized is presently unused. The parking lot would remain as is. A deck entrance could be easily constructed. Wheelchair concerns could be addressed.

It would provide a much needed off-street quiet area, for locals and visitors to meet and to enjoy a view.

Respondent 2

Comment Summary –16, 76

Courtenay could use 6-8 outdoor courts for pickleball, maybe part of Martin Park could be updated.

On another note we have golf courses that are hurting. They have restaurants, washrooms, parking and possibly could use more business. Thinking of Longlands, Sunnydale and Mulligans.

Respondent 3

Comment Summary – 16

Hello I have been a tennis player for a number of years but now my body is saying enough so I have taken to pickle ball which only requires ½ the effort and is much easier on the body.

In the past Courtenay and Comox have really supported the tennis players lights at Lewis park,. I know that the tennis players have supported funding for them. And new courts in comox to the tune of over \$750 thousand. Also the city of comox allows the tennis players use of the building at Balmoral Park for their sole use at no cost.

There are at least 12 tennis courts available at all daylight hours for the tennis players. They can just take their racquets and balls and play and at no cost whenever they wish

Last summer pickleball players had to A. either supply their own nets or B. help the facilitators set up nets and then that was only a few times a week and at fixed times.

Also we had to pay and the venues are very substandard. IE the surface does not allow the ball to bounce in a predictable manner.

There is no venue in the Comox Valley that I can call few players and go and play pickleball. That is a big deterrent for me. We need a dedicated facility where we can go and play any time and day of the week

It is about time the cities of Comox and Courtenay started catering to the pickleball players in the Comox valley

Respondent 4

Comment Summary – 16, 54

I am a 70-year old pickleball player and would encourage more pickleball courts in Courtenay, both indoor and outdoor.

I started playing about 3 years ago and it has helped me to be in better physical shape as well as giving me a greater social outlook.

The people who play pickleball in the Comox Valley are very encouraging and supportive of newcomers. And they laugh a lot!

I am happy to read that you are investigating the whole Parks plans.

Again, I support more facilities in Courtenay, especially indoor pickleball courts.

Respondent 5

Comment Summary – 16

As an active senior who believes that exercise and socialization go hand in hand, I applaud the direction that Courtenay is moving towards. Pickleball has become a pivotal part of my wife and my fitness program, along with our many friends.

Thank you for your vision in developing more facilities for us to stay healthy, and have fun with our many mainly senior enthusiasts.

Respondent 6

Comment Summary –16, 54

Many, many players --few, few courts --already causing friction for useage --need courts sooner rather than later both inside and outside courts .

No reason why tennis and pickleball cannot share space with overlapping lines on courts---this is the common theme I see all over USA as the pickleball increases in popularity. It is possible to fir

4 pickleball courts on one tennis court -using the tennis net as a back drop---I've seen it done in many places

Respondent 7

Comment Summary – 16, 54

Firstly, thank you for conducting this survey into public recreation needs for future planning.

I am retired so that is the demographic that I represent and I reside with my active husband in downtown Courtenay. We are "addicted" pickleball players and play 3-4 times per week. We also utilize facilities at Evergreen Seniors Centre, Lewis Centre and Native Sons Hall.

I am very pleased with Comox Valley Pickleball Association and the progress they have made in supporting and developing pickleball in the last few years. As a founding member of the Assoc. I can see the rapid growth of pickleball in our community - 250 members with new players arriving every month. We now have 4 certified coaches and our public group lessons are always sold out. One of our coaches volunteers each week to teach Beginners at Comox and also at Cumberland Recreation Centre.

I like the idea of resurfacing Martin Park. It is a great location with parking, storage and washrooms and perhaps the potential for CVPA to host events there. Our 4th Annual Comox Valley Indoor Pickleball Tournament on May 4-5 at 19 Wing is full (over 100 players and approx. 50% are out of town visitors).

I also see the need for more indoor space as our rainy weather is not conducive to playing outdoors on a regular basis, even in the spring and summer months. I have observed that there is a shortage of gymnasium space in the valley - even for private rentals. Perhaps even a shared indoor facility with tennis and other multi-use groups. Is Crown Isle willing to expand their recreation opportunities?

Thank you and I look forward to viewing the results of the survey and any future plans for our Valley.

Respondent 8

Comment Summary – 16, 54, 77, 19, 20

Thank you for allowing opportunity to provide input relating to the draft ***Parks and Recreation Master Plan*** regarding the future of recreational programs, amenities and facilities within Courtenay.

- Pickleball - I am fairly new to this sport and I have embraced it along with many others in the valley as a terrific fitness and social activity. The participation in this sport will continue to grow rapidly with all ages participating as the sport has recently been introduced to students in our schools. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America! Forward planning and construction of facilities, both indoor and outdoor, is paramount within Courtenay. The facilities in the valley are presently limited particularly during inclement weather with many people turned away on any given day

due to the limited number of courts. Outdoor courts in Courtenay are very limited and are presently fully utilized. More Pickleball facilities need to be constructed.

- Hockey - I regularly participate in 55+ hockey at the Sport Center. This program is appreciated as an option throughout the year. Please support the continuance of this program. I feel the present facilities are sufficient.
- Tubing - The most popular river entrance for tubing on the river is at the Puntledge River Fish Hatchery on Powerhouse Road. This access is on Federal property. To date the public have had access to the river at this location but this may not be the case in the future. Perhaps an alternate entry DOWNSTREAM from the hatchery (to avoid the in-river fish fence) could be investigated and developed.
- Park planning - include all community members, not those in a specific area that may oppose improvements. An example of this occurred years ago with the initial planning of Mallard Park (between Griffin Drive and Mallard Drive). Some home-owners whose property abutted the park were opposed to any development. Somehow this group was given an invitation only meeting with the consultant. Other community home-owners whose property did not abut the park were not formally invited but fortunately a few attended providing their desire for development of the park. This created a rift in the community that took many years to quell, even after the lineal park was developed. Please include ALL members of a neighborhood in ALL aspects of planning.

As more families relocate to the Comox Valley and our senior demographic increases, our present programs and facilities will be challenged. I congratulate the City of Courtenay and their forward-thinking regarding recreational opportunities and the positive effects on our health and well-being for citizens of the "Recreation Capital of Canada".

Respondent 9

Comment Summary – 1, 17

Respondent: Why were the 28% of the respondents who do not live in Courtenay taken into consideration when making the plan?

I believe these respondents should be removed as their opinions should not affect decisions about how the Courtenay resident taxes are used.

Staff: Thank you for your valuable feedback. We will forward your comments to the consultant for consideration as input into the Parks and Recreation draft Master plan.

There are some City assets and services which are regionally funded and the City would consider non City boundary responses and engagement. Recreation amenities such as the outdoor pool, outdoor skatepark, adapted and inclusive programs, and cultural services are example of such. Also some of our recreational programs are utilized by non Courtenay residents and through participant fees, we recover the direct cost of such programs.

Respondent: Thanks your prompt response.

Are the responses by nonresidents are only being taken into consideration when applied to regionally funded facilities and programs?

Do recreational programs used by residents and nonresidents alike include an amount, of say \$1 for each program, that is used for future building upgrades, staff cost increases and building maintenance?

Did Courtenay receive any regional funds for the reno on the Lewis center, which is used for many of the programs you have listed.

I realize the Valley is small but Courtenay residents and businesses already pay more tax than any other part of the Valley and my concern is another loan is on the way to improve recreation facilities based on the survey in which 28% of the people are not even residents of Courtenay. You only received 903 surveys so ...651 Courtenay residents is not a very high number to base decisions on, but at least they will be paying the taxes on the upgrades. We have pickle ball in Comox do we need it here too?

Staff: I understand your concerns. The relationship between subsidized programming and regional participants is complex. We don't discriminate based on location so we have participants from around the valley. We want this study to reflect the needs of our participants. A good example can be found in sport – a ball team is not formed of people from one neighbourhood or community. We wish to hear from all members of the team. For this reason, all responses both resident and non-residents are taken into consideration.

Our fees are not separated into resident and non-resident. The contracted recreation program fees which are charged to all participants include include an administration fee which does go towards the recovery of the overhead or indirect costs which include some of the costs you are referring to below.

The Lewis Centre renovation was funded by Federal Gas Tax Funds, Province of BC Community Recreation Program Funding, Enabling Accessibility Fund (Fortis BC) and a loan approved through alternative approval process which Council is given permission by the electors to proceed with such loans.

The information provided in the master plan are guiding documents and any ultimate capital impacts require approval by the elected officials before proceeding.

In regards to Pickleball, Council resolved for staff to work with regional partners to establish a working group to evaluate strategies for outdoor pickleball courts and fundng be set aside in the 2019 capital budget as the City of Courtenay contribution to a regional pickleball facility. Staff are proceeding on the issue as directed by Council.

Respondent 10

Comment Summary – 27

██████████ came in person and asked that the City consider a memorial walkway in a Pinegrove park. This would be subject to neighborhood consultation and cost recovery fees for plaques inserted into a walkway area in a park which the neighboring residents could dedicate

plaques to. With the Memorial Bench Program on hold, this is a suggestion she'd like to take forward to staff to consider as a replacement program.

Respondent 11

Comment Summary – 64, 25, 26

Many of the recommendations will be available budget driven.

There needs to be many more benches, especially for seniors and the disabled along trails and in Community parks.

There needs to be many more water fountains and water bottle filling stations, especially since we must reduce the use of bottled water and plastic pollution.

There are no fountains in Simms Park and only 2 at Lewis park, which are not marked (near the baseball backstops)

Respondent 12

Comment Summary – 17, 2

While a lot of your documentation made sense for the general public as a whole, the overwhelming "need" for more pickleball courts seems to point to a somewhat uneven focus on a single demographic with regards to your data and polling, (Boomers/retirees). Pickleball, while fun, is often played during nice weather and in the middle of the day when most regular people are working or in school. The Comox valley rains for half the year and your up and coming demographic are the families that are moving here in larger numbers every day from the mainland. Please consider them and your demographics as a whole before directing your resources in this manner.

Respondent 13

Comment Summary – 11

Regarding future plans re parks - since many years, every time i drive by the corner of lower 5th street and comox road, where the Courtenay Car Service is located i have thought how beautiful this corner could be if this building were demolished so that the view would be of the boats in the water channel adjacent to Simms Park.

The owner recently passed away, perhaps if the area came up for sale, the city could consider improving the landscape there?

Respondent 14

Comment Summary – 14, 15

It was great to see the mention of community gardens in the draft strategic plan and their benefits to the community.

There are actually several more (some are underutilized) school gardens that were not mentioned. Which ones are considered in Courtenay?

Isfeld (dormant until teacher returns next year), Vanier, Highland, Huband, Denman, Valley View, Robb Road (active school garden - club, classes and parent participation), Brooklyn, Lake Trail, Puntledge has some strawberry plants, Courtenay Elementary, Navigate, Nala'atsi,

Also I didn't notice the idea of edible landscaping anywhere in the document but perhaps I missed it. It would be great to have some herbal landscaping with some signage.

Respondent 15

Comment Summary – 24

Respondent: I'm just having a quick review of the draft plan and am disappointed to see that Woodcote Park is not included in the list of locations needing new or better playgrounds. I live half a block from Woodcote Park where the playground equipment is outdated, rusty and otherwise uninviting. We have to drive to other parks in Courtenay for outdoor playtime that is engaging and safe for our 2 year old.

Respondent: Thank you for your response to my email concerning Woodcote Park. I walked the area this morning and have to "take back" my comments about the playground area.....it's not that bad. Maybe the problem I have is that the area is most notably a playing field (a good thing) but the space could be much improved to make it look and act like a park. There is a lot of traffic along 17th and Cumberland which could be buffered with improved landscaping. I look forward to any move to improve this area and hope that the neighbourhood has some valuable contributions.

Respondent 16

Comment Summary – 49

Respondent: I was looking at the Parks and Recreation Plan Draft maps and noticed the proposed Park at 5th and Rail, and also its phasing, which is categorized as 'short.'

Could I find out a little bit more about this? what is considered "short?" and how much of the railway property would be involved? what is the intended look?

I have more than a little interest in this, as my property line is adjacent to the railway property. In fact my house is just a few feet from it, so of course I wonder what to expect. It sounds exciting and positive.

Staff: In regards to phasing "short" would mean it would be occur as an early phase as part of the ten year PR Master Plan. Next 1-3 years would be a good expectation.

There is no set design at this point however the masterplan does provide detail on what the park design process should look like through recommendations found on pages 37-40.

Respondent 17

Comment Summary – 42

I was just reading portions of the the new master plan. I live on Muir road near the cemetery. I would love to see some better connectivity within Sandwick Park and Muir/Mclauchlin. Although it is true there is a trail coming off of veteran's memorial way and coming out at the Muir /McLauchlin. The trail condition is terrible and not really that well defined in places, plus you need gum boots most of the year. As well it would be nice to walk around the ponds within Muir /McLauchlin. Why could we not have a trail circling the two ponds. There was a trail there but never was improved upon and now has mostly become overgrown.

Respondent 18

Comment Summary – 45, 46, 47

Great Plan, well done!

Riverway trail south to what is being called "south Courtenay park" should be started asap. A trail heading west through Millard Parks and Anfield Rd right of way to Fraser Rd./ logging Rd. Intersection as mentioned in the South Courtenay Area Plan should also be considered. At least one multipurpose route from West Courtenay to East Courtenay soon.

Respondent 19

Comment Summary – 38

On Page 63, Figure 3.6, item 9, it is noted ; “A Pedestrian bridge over the Courtenay River at the east end of sixth street, would provide an attractive alternative to fifth street bridge.”

In my view, the main attraction would be for bicycles and pedestrians to travel on to the riverway walk path.

It would facilitate bypassing the Downtown Core, the Filberg Centre, the Native Sons’ Hall, the Sid, plus limiting easy access to the puntledge River’s Condensary bridge and existing/future parks. These areas are our main attractions for local public and tourists’ enjoyment or commerce.

I think further study and community input is needed in this particular area.

My choice would be a free span bridge from Lewis Park across to Riverside Park at third Street.

1. This would tie our town’s recreation parks and facilities to the entertainment and commerce areas.
2. Major yearly events, parades, tournaments, conferences, etc, would be enhanced.
3. Connecting bicycle and pedestrian routes in this way would result in shorter, more enjoyable routes to Vanier High school, Condensory Road, Downtown core, The Riverway etc.
4. It would facilitate sharing parking areas.
5. There are more pedestrians then bicyclers crossing Fifth Street bridge.

attached is a possible free span bridge proposal (Algonquin Bridge, Kelowna) that could accomplish this.

Respondent 20

Comment Summary – 23, 43, 78

I took a quick look at the map being provided for parks and trails and have a couple of concerns that should be addressed.

1. McPhee meadow - There is no public access. What is the status of that property? I live in the neighbourhood and we all want to know why we cannot access this park space. None of us know what is happening with that property and we want to be consulted.

2. The proposed trail from Anderton to McPhee meadow - As shown, it appears that the trail will be going through private residences. Although not as scenic, it might be better to create a walkway along 2nd or 3rd that will enhance the neighborhood instead of encroaching on private property.

It may be that I am reading the map incorrectly so take a look and ask questions if necessary.

btw - Would this be a good time to bring up the possibility of a pedestrian greenway on England? Not sure if it is strictly a transportation issue or if it might also fit into the recreational category. Maybe recreation and transportation need to be consulted. I see walking as not only a method of transportation but also a form of recreation.

Respondent 21

Comment Summary – 31, 32, 33, 34

We are commenting on the document "2019-01-21 Parks and Recreation Master Plan (draft)".

The plan is very thorough and well supported by public input, but certainly ambitious.

We are addressing the discussion of trail interconnections in Section 3.4 "Trails".

Although the objective of extending and joining the multiple trails in Courtenay and surrounding areas seems desirable in theory, there may be many impracticalities in the details.

We own and reside at one of the private properties identified for the possible routing of the trail #15 in Figure 3.6 linking the extension of the Riverway Trail and Millard Greenway to the Royston Seaside Trail. Most of the affected properties have houses that are very close to the waterfront, compared to the situations of properties that were affected by the Royston Trail. Therefore loss of privacy of the land owners could be very severe for any invasive trail routings.

We suggest that the descriptions in the articles "Draft Trail Standards", "Planning and Design", and "Land Acquisition" should be augmented to provide more guidance to planners for this type of situation. Options considered for rights of way on or adjacent to private property should include the least invasive routings and clearances, and discussed at an early stage with the affected landowners. Trails may be best routed along built-up shoreline causeways, or along road easements at the periphery of properties, and sized as Nature Trails rather than 'standard' urban connectors. A good example of adaptive routing is the One spot trail extension in the regional district.

In our area an informal single-file connector trail already exists along the waterfront, running from the bottom of Millard road along the city right of way to Beachwood, and from there through the woods and down onto the beach, winding its way along the grass and pebble margins above the high-water line, and back up to the shore at the bottom of Chinook where it meets the south end of the Royston Trail. That trail is used quite often in the fair-weather months by folk who like to explore the shore of Comox Bay. Serious runners and cyclists connect the trails by using the wide shoulder along route 19A and the low-traffic links along Chinook Road and Millard Road. Enhancements of this system of connectors may be less costly and problematic than a new right of way through the middle of the affected properties.

We also suggest adding to the trail planning and design considerations in Section 3.4 some of the relevant topics discussed extensively in other sections dealing with parks: these include accommodation of environmentally sensitive habitats, archeologically significant areas, identification of zoning bylaw implications, and detailed consultations with local residents.

Respondent 22

Comment Summary – 50, 51

I've been reading the Courtenay Parks Master Plan draft and I'm curious about two things.

1. When will the trail from The Ridge to the oceanfront be developed? My understanding was that Buckstone Developments would be building the trail in 2018.
2. When will the oceanfront trail from Beechwood to the Courtenay River Walkway be developed?

Respondent 23

Comment Summary – 48

I just attempted to wade through the huge Parks/Rec document on line and finally just zeroed in on my particular interest which is the trails in East Courtenay through the parks and the linking to Valley View etc.

I would like to thank the city for planning and maintaining these walk ways - I realize that likely budget restraints limits the amount of maintenance and improvements that can be carried out in any one year. Hurford is in desperate need of some trenching but maybe that is on the books. Relatively new to living in Courtenay, I am very much pleased that I can walk for an hour each day mostly avoiding traffic of any kind. I support any ongoing acquisition for this sort of recreation that might be proposed.

I might add that my husband and I also walk in other areas like the Airpark and out in Comox, Seal Bay, and the Cumberland Trails. However, it requires a drive to access usually.

GROUPS

CVPA

Comment Summary – 16, 54

Thank You for your invitation to the Comox Valley Pickleball Association (CVPA) to offer input and comment on the draft Parks and Recreation Plan. We are encouraged that the City of

Courtenay is taking inventory of its recreational facilities and sports fields, analyzing them, and is planning for the next 10 years. We believe that the sport of pickleball will be a major "player" in Courtenay's sports and recreational future. Pickleball is not only the fastest growing sport in North America, it is growing by leaps and bounds in the Comox Valley. I would estimate that there were more than 15,000 games of pickleball played in the Comox Valley in 2018. In Courtenay, we are appreciative of the two temporary courts at the practice tennis courts at Lewis Park, and the six temporary courts at the lacrosse box at Martin Park. Indoor pickleball goes on for all twelve months. Play at Comox Recreation Centre and Cumberland Recreation Centre is very popular, and long lineups to register are the norm in the Winter season.

As was pointed out in the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the demographics show an aging population for Courtenay in the next 10 years. This is reflective of our sport, as the average age of members of the CVPA is 67. Our membership in 2018 was 247, and we anticipate an increase in members for 2019. As our participation rate keeps increasing, our need for more playing facilities grows. We realize that pickleball is a relatively new sport and thus does not have the facilities that the more traditional sports have developed over time.

As the Courtenay draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan is looking to maximize the benefits of Courtenay's recreational assets, the CVPA is looking forward to a positive growth in playing opportunities for our members. With this in mind, we are ready now to work with the City of Courtenay to plan for the immediate future.

CV Conservation Partnership

Comment Summary – 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, 35, 36, 58, 63, 66

The Comox Valley Conservation Partnership (CVCP) Steering Committee would like to congratulate the City on the recently released DRAFT Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan. This 10-year guiding plan will be a benefit for the community and groups like ours, and will provide a framework for decisions related to our future park planning strategies. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback at this time.

The CVCP Steering Committee has established a sub-committee of members that participated in the public consultation last fall and have backgrounds in this field. We commend the City for taking the time to complete such a comprehensive document to guide new development with consideration for parks and recreation; however, there are some areas that we would like provide some additional comments on:

- In general, there is a lack of detailed strategies in the PRC Master Plan for improving connectivity within and between parks spaces and linking key environmentally sensitive areas. Using identified riparian areas would provide a natural blueprint for those connectivity corridors.
- At Courtenay's Jan 21st Council Meeting; where the PRC Master Plan was introduced to Council. Ian Buck (Courtenay's Director of Development Services) mentioned that recent, subdivision parkland dedication (5%) trends have been in the form of trail networks. The PRC Master Plan could take the opportunity to quantify that trend in recent developments and integrate with a specific connectivity analysis.
- The City has been or is in the process of developing many strategic guiding

documents for Courtenay. Appendix A: Relevant Documents and Initiatives lists these documents as providing context for the PRC Master Plan. Not included in this list, but integral inter-departmental supporting documents are the: updated Subdivision Development Services Bylaw, in-process Urban Forest Strategy and the upcoming Integrated Rainwater Management Plan.

- Population change by age class (2001-2016) included in the PRC Master Plan, indicates that the 25-44-year-old class is growing alongside the retiree demographic. Given that this younger demographic will likely be entering the housing market; Block 71, isn't referenced and yet is planned for build-out in the current OCP adding significant pressure for park acquisition and planning. How much more parkland is needed to maintain current per capita provision levels within Courtenay as a whole and Block 71 in particular?
- Although the report list specific improvements to all of the parks there is no mention of the magnitude of the required funding and sources to be accessed during the 10-year implementation of this plan.
- The role of urban tree planting and riparian restoration needs to be explored in more depth especially in reference to increasing the role of community partnerships in park spaces. The only reference to urban trees planting as a consideration for planning is on pg 39 of the PRC Master Plan.
- Open spaces such as the Courtenay Estuary and Kus Kus Sum property are mentioned briefly but should be prioritized as open spaces that draw increased recreational traffic and will require detailed cooperative park planning with other land agencies and estuary managers. For example, the recent Memorandum of Understanding between KFN/Courtenay/Project Watershed for the purchase and restoration of the Kus Kus Sum property.
- Economic benefits of parks and recreation are indeed improving property values, tourism and attracting residents (pg 11). However, Courtenay has recently been approved for a national pilot project to review opportunities for natural asset management throughout the Courtenay flood plain, including the Kus Kus Sum property. The desired result is that the natural assets within a community will become understood, managed and valued by a local government. Eco-asset valuation and riparian area management need to go hand-in-hand with this PRC Master Plan and the resulting Natural Areas Management Plans; especially since this plan is meant to guide to new development for the next 10 years.
- Hurford Hill Nature Park and Sandwick Forest are also listed as natural parks with a need for a park management plan, Comox Valley Land Trust (CVLT) holds covenants for these areas and will gladly partner to develop those plans.
- The PRC Master Plan clearly identifies through the parkland and population analysis, that without additional purchases, service levels will decrease. As well, the need to acquire more parks in specific deficient areas area highlighted.

The CVLT has recently completed a Land Protection Plan (conservation prioritization exercise) for the entire Comox Valley, including the City of Courtenay using SEI data, NatureServe methods for Ecological Integrity and IUCN methodologies for assessing Threat. This Land Protection Plan would be a great tool to support the PRC Master Plan acquisition strategy and collaborate with the City on prioritizing future lands to be considered for acquisition, covenant or increased governmental protection.

Outlined above are some of the issues that the CVCP have discussed, however it is worth noting that there are number of strengths in the PRC Master Plan as well. The CVCP Steering Committee, and the CVLT appreciate being a part of the collaborative process and look forward to taking the next steps in partnership.

Resident Group

Comment Summary – 3, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 37, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82

Introduction- A small group of residents who are recreation/outdoor enthusiasts and familiar with the Comox Valley-its geography, history, resources and some of its challenges, met to discuss the Draft Report. Prior to meeting, everyone scanned the report on line and came prepared to offer reactions and suggestions. We also had a hard copy to refer to at the meeting.

We brainstormed our ideas, focusing mainly on 'process goals' as distinct from specific programs and services. It was felt that the mechanisms for community involvement, coordination, integration, were vitally important and need to be addressed in order to move forward in a comprehensive way.

Mainly because of the Comox Valleys' early history of independent communities and staff working in 'silos', elected officials and staffs have not always been encouraged to think and plan 'outside of the box'. If there is to be a paradigm shift in planning, it needs to start at the community level and even within neighbourhoods.

The Comox Valley Health Network, currently in its early stage of organization, will soon have task groups working on a number of priority areas as defined by the community at two well attended forums. The goals are based upon the World Health Organization's 'Social Determinants of a Healthy Community'. Health, Recreation, and Environment are three of them. Municipalities need to engage with agencies and residents in order to provide an integrated approach to challenges. This is especially important in smaller communities where resources are limited.

The 'mother of all issues' is and will continue to be climate change and its impact on all aspects of community growth and development. For example, the air quality in the Comox Valley is one of the worst in the Province and the health impacts on all age groups have been regularly explained by Dr. Enns, the Chief Medical Health Officer. Working within the CVRD, the City needs to consider these impacts when planning new programs and sites.

Planning Ideas- these are random thoughts without consideration of by laws, O.C.P., R.G.S, budgets, staffing, jurisdictions. They are not in any order of importance. Obviously, some further planning and consultation would be required in order to implement many of these ideas.

- First Nations culture needs to be prominently recognized throughout.
- More attention to all stages of life in programs and services
- Affiliate within the framework of the C.Valley Health Network
- Need more of a Regional focus for programs and services
- Negotiate a joint use site development agreement between City and S.D.
- Continue planning on connectivity, mobility, safety for trails, walkways
- Support the development of Neighbourhood Associations for local planning- the catchment area of an elementary school.
- Develop Harmston Park as the Downtown Civic Park and plan more green spaces in the Downtown Core for community events
- Require Developers to provide inside and outside amenities
- Establish a Youth Advisory Committee in partnership with S.D. 71
- Showcase alternate environmental energy technologies
- Establish Estuary and Kus-Kus-Sum Coordinating Committees
- Expand aquatic sites and programs
- Support Year around Community Garden site and programs
- Support access, including monitoring and compliance of watershed issues
- Expand dedicated safe,walking and cycling lanes- further connectivity
- Support a Campus Plan development for Puntledge and Lake Trail schools
- Encourage neighbourhood involvement in Tree By Law implementation
- Establish priorities for land acquisition and funding solutions
- Engage within the CVRD to develop a regional facility plan
- Implement a total ban on wood burning- Airshed Task Group.
- Revise zoning to ensure that all parks are included

Summary

The Draft Master Plan provides a good analysis of the services and facilities which exist in the Courtenay area. 'Challenges' present ideas for gaps in service and some solutions. Our focus session concentrated on processes for changes in planning and some ideas which were not covered in the Draft Report.

We hope you find our suggestion useful. We would be willing to discuss any of our ideas with you.

PRAC

Comment Summary – 29, 44, 62

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

Dave took questions from the commission members on the draft. The following are some points made and questions asked:

- The plan shows optimism
- There is a high level of interest in the inventory portion
- Playground replacement should be prioritized
- Staff should look at granting available for initiatives. Consider a grant writer
- Discussion on the overlap between recreation and culture/leisure

- Discussion about strategic land acquisitions
- A focus on accessibility on trails
- Consider sponsorships – The commission members were polled on their support of sponsorship programs and the majority support the idea

Bike Coalition

Comment Summary – 28, 30, 39, 40, 41

- Include bike skills park in Courtenay
- In urban trail connections consider feasible zig zag trail as opposed to stairs so there is bicycle and scooter accessibility
- Trail connections routes - ensure proper sidewalk let downs and remove non-conforming let downs to remove trip hazards and improve accessibility
- Connect parks to safe routes to school (e.g., Puntledge Park to Lake Trail school)
- Support for trail connectivity, especially in East Courtenay

STAFF

Village of Cumberland

Comment Summary – 71, 72

Thanks for sharing the draft Courtenay Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and for the opportunity for the Village to provide input.

In terms of general feedback, the plan looks great and we appreciate how it acknowledges some of the unique regional challenges and opportunities of providing parks and recreation services in the Comox Valley.

For example, we appreciate the content in the plan relating to Trails (i.e. page 67, *link trails within the City to existing and future trails in surrounding jurisdictions; and work with other jurisdictions in the CV on major trail networks to achieve active transportation, recreation and tourism opportunities*). We too acknowledge the regional benefits of such trails/trail systems – for both recreation and active transportation – and we appreciate how the plan acknowledges the benefits of regional collaboration. In fact, one of the Village’s Strategic Priorities is to *ensure trail connectivity to regional trail networks*.

We also agree that in many cases it makes sense for each of the municipalities in the region to focus on the park facilities / services that play into our unique local strengths: i.e. for Cumberland, we agree that it makes sense for us to be the regional lead on the provision of mountain bike infrastructure [(bike skills parks/mountain bike trails (page 55))].

We also support the proposed trail connection adjacent to 29th Street (Comox Valley Parkway) from Cliff Ave to the Courtenay city boundary. We believe that connecting this trail to Cumberland would be of great benefit to residents of both Courtenay and Cumberland, and we look forward to working collaboratively with you and other stakeholders (e.g. the CVRD) when this project moves forward.

We also noted several other projects and ideas on the plan that would be of great benefit to the region (e.g. the proposed trail connections along the Puntledge River and connecting East and West Courtenay by trail).

City of Courtenay – Parks

Comment Summary – 65, 66, 67

- Pickleball courts would not fit at Valleyview Park and SD71 court availability would not satisfy the PBA
- Some linear parks (buffer areas) require further consideration - staff recommend a linear park study to develop options
- Proposed improvements to Woodcote park don't require a park plan but only minor capital allocations

City of Courtenay – Development Services

Comment Summary – 68, 69, 70

Pg. 23 – Are there park land distribution targets for nature parks? With all the research on the importance of contact with nature...?

Pg. 28 – Re: the design recommendation here about pedestrian corridors being 6m to accommodate greenspace and preserve trees, the UFS consultants were pointing out that 10m is rarely enough to accommodate a trail and trees (within the City land). Therefore they were recommending in the 20m range when preserving mature trees as part of greenway network. I'm wondering if there could be a statement in here to examine greenway widths as part of a future subdivision/specs and standards bylaw review to accommodate mature tree retention as well as recreation/travel functions.

Pg. 29 – Acquisition priorities – would be great if they reference the outcome of the UFS. That map is still under development and is a couple weeks out. (a nature prioritization exercise for the City is being undertaken by the consultants).

Observation – lovely to see how much people love the nature appreciation activities. I'd like to include a few statements on that in the final UFS plan, once the parks plan is complete.

I appreciate I may be way past the time to add any notes for your summary to council, but I wanted to include this additional thought here for my own records and hopefully yours!

- The Urban Forest Strategy will show some locations for planting as shown in the image below. This layer is available for viewing in GIS to be able to pin point specific streets and parks. I recommend that when you're working on individual parks master plans that this information below (or updated versions) is utilized to consider planting opportunities.

Many of the single spaces in roads are in front of people's homes and may or may not be pursued by the City for street tree planting. Also, these points have not been checked for conflicts with utilities.

