



"Gary oak tree at Cedar Hill Park" courtesy of Leonard Butt

Cedar Hill Park



Management Plan

2020 to 2040

*Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
Parks Division | Approved by Saanich Council - October 19, 2020*

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DISTRICT OF SAANICH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE SAANICH MUNICIPAL HALL, 770 VERNON AVENUE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

2150-20
Cedar Hill Park
Management
Plan

CEDAR HILL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Report of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services dated October 9, 2020 recommending that Council endorse the management plan as presented and direct staff to bring forward resource requests for its implementation as part of future budget submissions.

The Senior Manager, Parks and the Manager, Park Planning and Development presented the Cedar Hill Park Management Plan (PowerPoint on file) and answered questions from Council:

- Cedar Hill is a municipal park and a regional draw.
- There is a need to have a place to park at the Golf Course.
- Specific Cedar Hill items will be considered during budget deliberations including a play area for kids and outdoor equipment for adults.
- The ball diamond will be remediated to improve drainage; it is envisioned that the ball diamond would also be used as a multi-use area.
- Regular updates are provided to the community.
- Public engagement would vary depending on the complexity of the project.

In response to questions from Council, the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services stated:

- Resurfacing of the Cedar Hill Golf Course parking lot is a priority.
- Reporting can be done through the Strategic Plan Dashboard.

MOVED by Councillor Plant and Seconded by Councillor Brice: “That:

- 1. Council endorse the Cedar Hill Park Management Plan as presented; and**
- 2. Direct staff to bring forward resource requests for its implementation as part of future budget submissions.”**

Council discussion ensued with the following comments:

- The Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee has reviewed the plan and support it; there is interest in restoring and protecting environmental areas.

The Motion was then Put and CARRIED

Acknowledgments

We acknowledge that the District of Saanich lies within the traditional territories of the **Lekwungen** (Lay-kwung-gen) peoples known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the **WSÁNEĆ** (weh-saanich) peoples known today as **WJOLEŁP** (Tsartlip), **BOKÉĆEN** (Pauquachin), **STÁUTW** (Tsawout), **WSIKEM** (Tseycum) and **MÁLEXEŁ** (Malahat) Nations

This Management Plan considered views from a range of individuals who value and appreciate Cedar Hill Park. The result is a plan, which reflects their collective aspirations. We would like to extend our full and sincere appreciation to community members, Saanich staff and representatives of various groups and agencies who provided their diverse perspectives.

Stakeholder working group:

Saanich Parks would like to specifically acknowledge and thank the Stakeholder Working Group for their time, patience, insights and assistance during this planning process. Evan Peterson of Barefoot Planning assisted this group with Phase 1 of the plan. His skills helped us to extract valuable information and insights collected through our initial public engagement activities. Facilitated exercises allowed the group to build a solid foundation for the final plan providing a framework that was easy to expand upon in Phase 2.

Community members:

- Camosun Community Association: Leigh Urquhart, Al Lublowski & Karen Harper
- Capital Regional District, Harbours and Watersheds: Natalie Bandringa, Kitty Lloyd & Jody Watson
- Cedar Hill Golf Club: Val Mieras
- Friends of Cedar Hill Park: Luis Netter & Barbara Latham
- Mt Tolmie Community Association: Val Neaves
- Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association: Peter Haddon, Pam Edwards & Susan Haddon

** Note: each Community Organization had one representative however, in some cases, individuals were unable to participate in the entire process which is why there is more than one name listed.*

Municipal staff:

- Saanich Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Golf Course: Carole Ireland
- Saanich Parks Planning and Design: Julie Lommerse and Gary Darrah
- Saanich Parks Natural Areas and Urban Forestry: Andrew Burger

Natural Area Zones (Appendix 8.8):

A special thank you to the Pulling Together Volunteer Group at Cedar Hill Park for providing base mapping and information which the Natural Area Zones were based on.

Photographs:

Photos in the report were taken by members of the community (as noted) and Saanich Parks staff.

Quotes:

Unless otherwise noted, the quotes are from letters and surveys collected from various public engagement sessions associated with this process.

1 Executive summary

Cedar Hill Park is a 53.4-hectare parcel classified as a Municipal Park intended to serve the entire community of Saanich. The park is zoned P-4 (Recreation and Open space) except for the SE corner where the Recreation Centre is located, which is zoned P-4HR (Recreation and Health). 90% of the park is within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Approximately 71% of the park is occupied by the Cedar Hill Golf Course and 3% is utilized by the Recreation Centre, both of which are managed by the Recreation Division and are located in Cedar Hill Park. The remaining 25% is designated as 'public park' land. It is these public park portions that this plan primarily focuses on. The operations and management of the both Cedar Hill Golf Course and the Recreation Centre are considered to be out-of-scope for this process as these two facilities are operated as fee-for-service recreation facilities and are managed as such.

Cedar Hill Park is in the traditional territory of the traditional territory of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich), Lekwungen (Songhees), Wyomilth (Esquimalt) peoples of the Coast Salish Nation. Pre-contact, the area was active, and a number of sites within the park have a high likelihood of past indigenous activity. After 1850 this land was farmed by John Work, the McRae Family and others. In 1921 the McRae's' leased a portion of the land for the development of a 9-hole golf course which over time grew into an 18-hole course. Saanich obtained the land in 1966 for "park purposes for the pleasure, recreation and community uses of the public".

Today Cedar Hill Park is enjoyed by many for not only golf, but for recreation centre activities, walking, running, baseball, exercise, birding and nature appreciation. The park is home to Reach 17, a tributary of Bowker Creek, and Kings Pond, natural watercourses that have been altered overtime and have a significant amount of invasive non-native species. Finding a balance between the recreational needs of the community, including finding a solution to accommodate safe and enjoyable bicycle travel in the area (within or outside the park), and the conservation of the parks natural areas is the biggest challenge for this park. Although the provision of recreational opportunities and preservation of natural areas can enhance each other, sometimes pursuing both can result in conflicts. In order to minimize impacts it is important to consider the surrounding ecosystems and their management when designing individual places and recreational activities. Because this park is recreational in nature the challenge going forward is to keep environmental impacts within acceptable limits and to plan and design elements that reflect the natural values which people appreciate about the park.

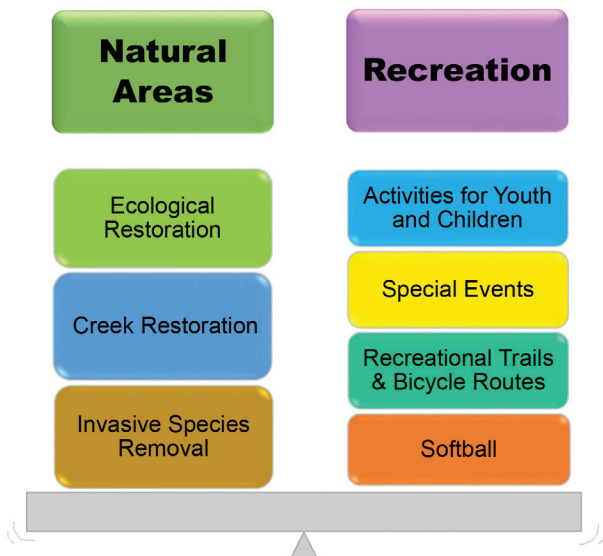


Figure 1 "The Challenge"

The Cedar Hill Park Management Plan provides guidance for the management of the portions of Cedar Hill Park which are utilized by the general public (trails, ball diamonds, open space and natural areas) for the next 15 to 20 years. The management plan establishes a 'road map' for decision-making with respect to park management, operations and maintenance, and provides a strategic approach for future capital investment in the park. The creation of this plan relied on public participation to identify community values, and as a result the following Vision Statement was written for the park:

“Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement.”

The following four themes were revealed when comments from the community were analyzed more closely. It was from these four themes where the plan took shape and seventeen goals and related actions were developed to provide a framework for the implementation of the plan.

- Preserving the natural environment
- A place for physical and social well being
- Building community
- Park management

The Cedar Hill Park Stakeholder Working Group played a key role in ensuring that the public was effectively engaged and represented in developing the plan, and assisted in finalizing the Vision and Goals. The impetus for the plan came from the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, direction to staff from Saanich Council as well as interest from the community.

2 Introduction

The Cedar Hill Park Management Plan provides sound guidance for the management of the portions of Cedar Hill Park, which the public will continue to utilize (recreational trails, ball diamonds, open space and natural areas) for the next 15 to 20 years. The operations and management of the both Cedar Hill Golf Course and the Recreation Centre, which are located within the park, are considered to be out-of-scope for this process which is described in Appendix 8.4. These two facilities operate as fee-for service recreation facilities. It should be noted that the natural areas, future restoration areas and impacts to the watersheds located within the active golf course boundary are considered in this Management Plan. At the time of the Management Plan development, the Cedar Hill Golf Course and Recreation Centre were popular facilities and operating successfully. There was also no immediate plans to expand the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. If these scenarios were to change then the District will conduct a public process to determine how best to serve the community as it moves forward.

2.1 Management plan - a definition

A park management plan is a planning document that provides a ‘road map’ for the future of a park. Plans typically outline a park’s vision, purpose and goals and focuses on key issues and setting priorities where these issues are then tackled over the next decade or two. Future management decisions related to park use, capital upgrades and programming are made based on approved actions and recommendations.

Legislation and zoning including the Official Community Plan and Local Area plans, current research, economics and societal attitudes influence various iterations of a park management plan. Plan development includes public consultation. While the plan will address a breadth of subjects, it will not provide detailed designs for specific areas in the park nor a comprehensive natural areas management strategy. Site specific detailed designs and strategies are identified as priority key action items within the overall management plan.

Management Plans are intended to provide a framework that, when implementing change, supports staff, Council and the community to work together to ensure that the special qualities of the park are retained and are for the benefit of all. At times situations and proposals will arise that are not anticipated in the Management Plan. In these cases, the established Vision Statement and established goals would be evaluated to provide guidance and insight on how the proposal or situation may be best addressed.

A portion of this plan contains an Open Space Masterplan (Figure 12) for the area surrounding the Recreation Centre. The purpose of this diagram is to provide a land-use plan for this area -- one that identifies access, general improvements and needed infrastructure guiding the placement of individual restoration and amenity projects over a number of years.

Management Plans are presented to Saanich Council so that they can endorse the goals, actions and budget estimates (Section 6.2) found in the plan.

2.2 Cedar Hill Park Management Plan – our progression

The impetus for the Cedar Hill Park planning process came from: i) the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan where it was identified that Management Plans be created for all major parks; ii) direction to staff from Saanich Council; and iii) the community after a contentious clay tennis court proposal for the park, was rejected by Saanich Council in 2014.

The Cedar Hill Management Plan began in 2017 as a Visioning and Planning process where the Parks Division established a Stakeholder Working Group to develop a long-term guiding vision statement for the park and to identify the type of plan needed for the park (e.g., Natural Areas Plan, Masterplan or Management Plan). The Cedar Hill Park planning process ran from January 2017 to the fall of 2020 and consisted of two phases.

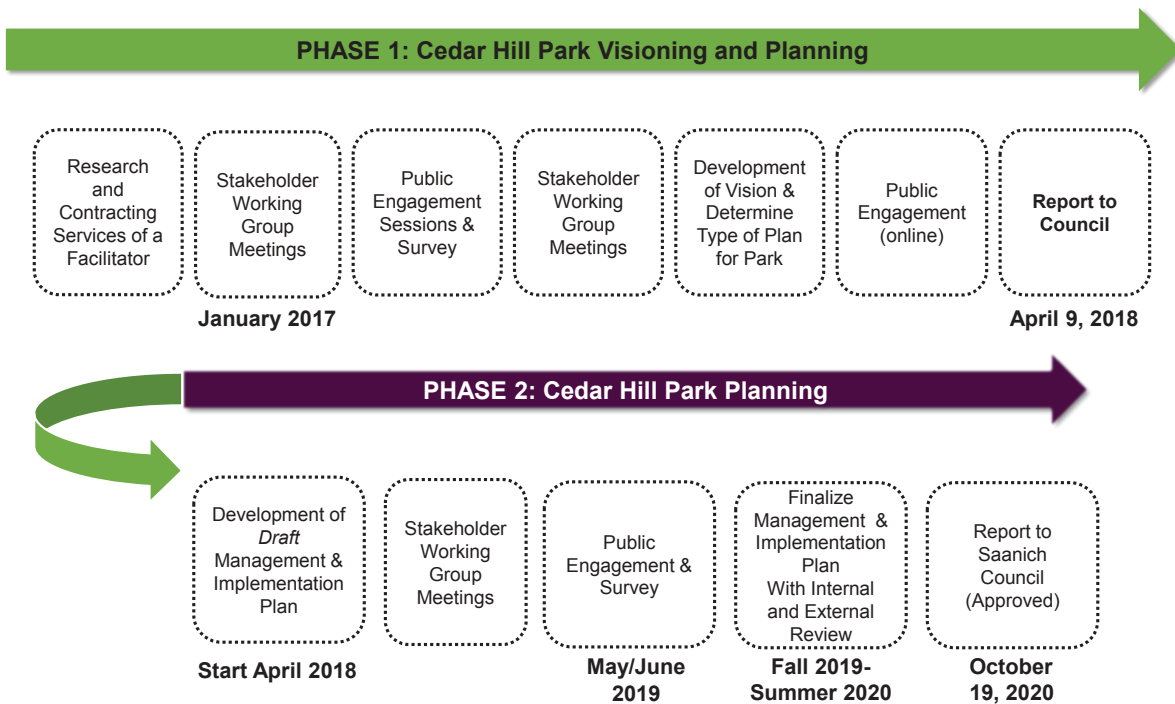


Figure 2 Project timeline

Details about the planning process can be found in Appendix 8.5.

3 Context – where we are

Cedar Hill Park is a 53.6 hectare parcel which was classified as a Municipal Park by Saanich Council in 1989. The District of Saanich purchased the land for the park through expropriation in 1967.



Kings and Jenkins Pond Parks, separate parks both just north of Cedar Hill Park, were not considered in this planning process but the watercourse found in each will be assessed when the Kind Pond restoration project (Goal #2) is undertaken.

Figure 3 Cedar Hill Park - Existing 2020

Approximately 38 hectares (71%) of the park is occupied by the Cedar Hill Golf Course and 1.6 hectares (3%) is utilized by Recreation Centre, both of which are managed by the Recreation Division. This leaves approximately 14 hectares (25%) of the land designated as 'public park' portions of the park which includes the park trail, two baseball diamonds, an open field, two parking lots along Finlayson, Kings Pond as well as the southern portion of Reach 17, a tributary of Bowker Creek. This plan focuses on the 14 hectares of park land utilized by the general public.

It should be noted that the parking area at Kings Pond and the trail connecting Queensbury Ave. between Ascot Dr. and Epsom Dr. is in the road right-of-way (ROW). This area in the ROW has been included in this plan as people currently utilize it as if it were parkland but the community should be aware that this ROW is subject to change in the future.

CEDAR HILL PARK	53.6 hectares
Public park portions	13.6 (25%)
Golf course	38.4 (71%)
Recreation centre	1.6 (3%)

Table 1 Cedar Hill Park - Land Use Breakdown

3.1 Bylaws and policies

Parks planning and management in Saanich is guided by a number of bylaws, policies, guidelines and plans. In the case of Cedar Hill Park a number of policies were either referenced or drawn upon and applied to this park. A list of those policies and plans that were referenced can be found in Appendix 8.7.

There are other factors that should be considered when planning future activities in Cedar Hill Park:

- Clumps of Twisted Oak Moss (*Syntrichia laevipila*) in park identified as a Blue Listed Species (Special concern) by the BC Conservation Data Centre
- Streamside Development Permit Areas (Kings Pond and Bowker Creek)
- Environmental Development Permit Areas as identified as Sensitive Ecosystems in the park
- Heritage Designation (McRae House built in 1902)

3.2 Zoning and Agricultural Land Reserve

The current zoning is P-4 (Recreation and Open space) except for the SE corner where the Recreation Centre is located, which is zoned P-4HR (Recreation and Health). Land reserved as parkland (Cedar Hill Park and others) are protected under the Park Reservation Bylaw which states that *“lands have been acquired for use as current and/or future parkland and it is desirable that they should continue to be made available now and/or in the future as parkland for the pleasure and recreation of the public.”*¹

A majority of the park is currently in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). However, the restrictions in the Agricultural Land Commission Act do not necessarily apply to park amenity additions or upgrades at Cedar Hill Park because the property was held and used lawfully for park and recreation activities (non-farm use) more than six months prior to the ALR being established in Dec 21, 1972. Another factor that influenced this exemption is that the property had been legally subdivided into urban lot parcels which were all under 2 acres by the McRae family in 1911. It was not until 1988 that Saanich consolidated these lots.

In 2016, there was an application to rezone the Golf Clubhouse, Pro Shop, and associated parking lot to P-4HR to allow for retail sales and health services; however, the Agricultural Land Commission did not approve this zoning.

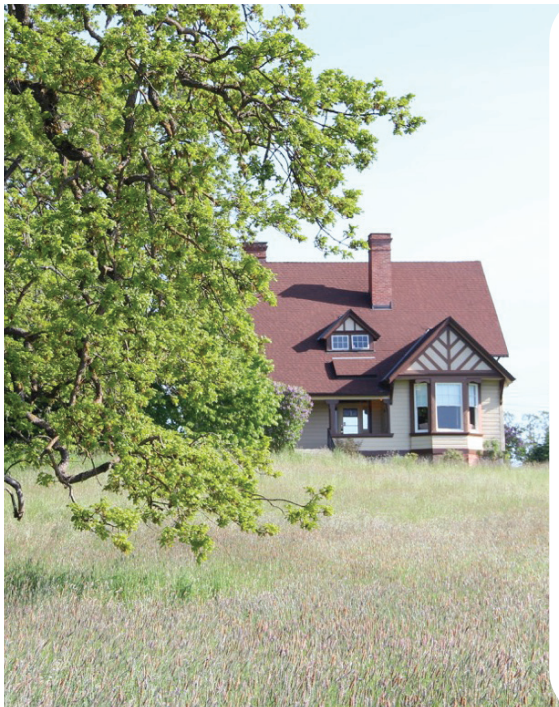
The park’s southern boundary is separated from the Victoria-Saanich municipal boundary by Finlayson Street and North Dairy Rd.

¹ Saanich Parks Reservation Bylaw, 2006, No. 8718

3.3 Park history

Originally, the area where Cedar Hill Park is located is in the area where many generations of Lekwungen (Lay-kwung-gen) peoples known today as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the WSÁNEĆ (weh-saanich) peoples known today as WJOLELP (Tsartlip), BOKÉCEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW (Tsawout), WSIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations once hunted and lived.

Post-European contact, the land was farmed by a number of landowners and leaseholders prior to Saanich obtaining the land for “the pleasure, recreation and community uses of the public” in 1967. The Golf Course was developed by a golf pro who leased the land from the McRae family who owned the property at the time. The Golf Course was run as a private enterprise from 1921 to 1967 (1921-1952 as a 9-Hole course/1952 - 1967 as an 18-hole course). The Cedar Hill Golf Course benefits greatly from an attractive clubhouse which was built in 1997 after the previous clubhouse burnt down. This facility offers the District a revenue stream from the services it provides. The golf course is a popular public municipal golf course offering affordable golf opportunities to people of all ages. Golf is an established use at this park which the District plans to continue offering (at time of plan development). As a result, the operations of the Cedar Hill Golf Course is out-of-scope for this planning process.



McRae House, completed in 1902 and was designated as a heritage building in 1985 and is on the Saanich Heritage Register (this does not include the land surrounding the house). The original barn buildings were located where the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre is currently situated. After the death of George McRae in 1901, Lizzie McRae was left with raising five small children on her own. She tried to sell the property several times. In approximately 1917, she rented some of the property to Harry W. Eve, a golf professional who started the Cedar Hill Golf Course. In 1967 Saanich Municipality purchased the land continuing to run the golf course and shortly thereafter built the park trail and recreation centre.

McRae House is currently leased from the municipality by Saanich Volunteer Services Society, a nonprofit agency that promotes independent living and enhances quality of life for Saanich residents by providing coordinated volunteer services and connection to community resources.

Figure 4 Photo of McRae House courtesy of Peter Haddon

The park trail (affectionately referred to as the ‘chip, loop or perimeter trail’) was installed by Saanich shortly after it assumed the management of the land.

The first park plan was completed by the Saanich Planning Department in the early 1970’s. It was this plan that determined a community recreation facility would be located in the park. The Cedar Hill Recreation Centre was officially opened in May 1973 with an auditorium, multi-purpose rooms and a dance studio. With increased demand over the years, it has grown to include squash courts, tennis courts, a fitness room and a significant arts centre with renovations and additions taking place in 1977, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 2002, 2005 and most recently in 2011.



Figure 5 Cover of Program from Official Opening of Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

Recreation program growth projections over the next 20 years forecast the need for more court and gymnasium space along with upgrades to the reception and lounge areas. It should be noted that through careful planning and design, a building addition does not necessarily need to impede or negatively impact the open grass and meadow areas north and west of the facility. This park planning process has indicated that these areas are highly valued by local residents and park visitors.

Kings Pond, located in the north end of the park was one of the original ponds in the area and continues to be a popular feature in the park. The Victoria Natural History Society suggested the pond was preserved in 1969. Community volunteers conducted a major clean-up of the pond in the 1990's, however at that time golden willow trees³ were planted around the perimeter of the pond.



Figure 7 Kings Pond at Cedar Hill Golf Course, ca. 1960s, Saanich Archives, PR-162-1984-003-056a

The section of Reach 17 nearest the Recreation Centre had some restoration work (between the two foot bridges) and footbridges installed in 1996. Funding for that project was obtained from the Provincial Capital Commission.



Figure 6 One of the plan options from Development Plan for Cedar Hill Park, Saanich Planning, 1970²

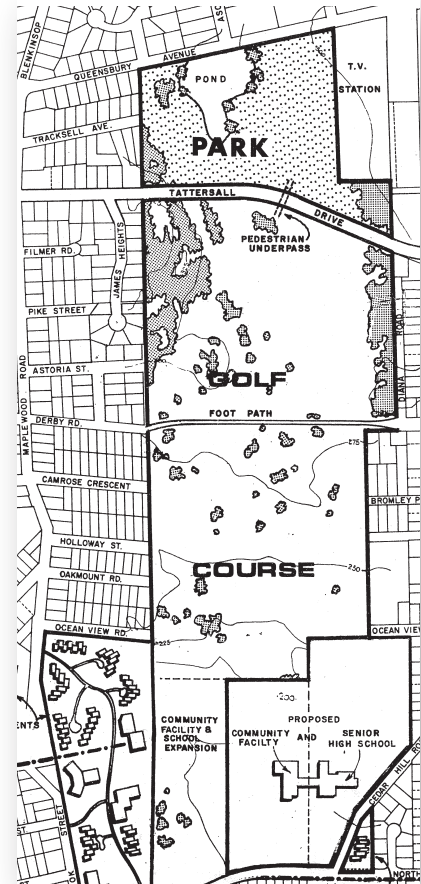


Figure 8 Photos of Reach 17 - 1996 & 2017



2 Development Plan for Cedar Hill Park, Saanich Planning Department, 1970

3 Golden Willow (*Salix alba vitellina*) is known for its ability to grow quickly and is often planted in moist areas as a screen or for erosion control, however it's aggressive roots are far reaching and can negatively effect water flow in riparian areas.

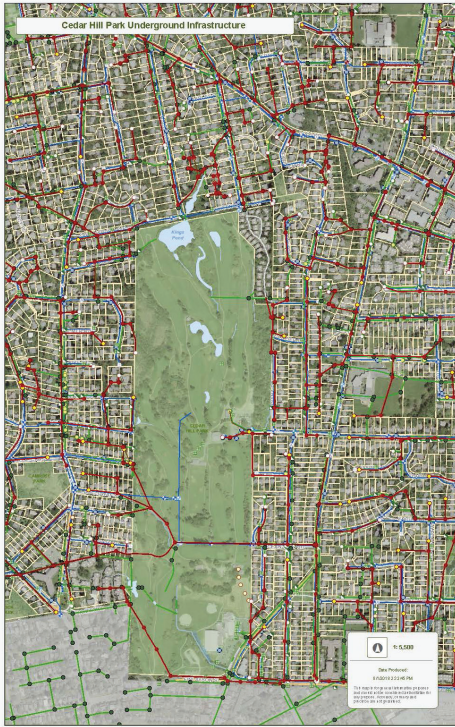


Figure 9 Map of Cedar Hill Park underground infrastructure

3.4 Archeology

Pre-contact, the area of Cedar Hill Park was actively utilized by local indigenous peoples. Areas of high archaeological potential are mapped throughout the park. This mapping is part of the **confidential** record held by the BC Archaeology Branch. Appreciating and preserving the archaeological record is an important part of moving forward with any future plans for the park. In areas with a high potential Saanich must ensure proper protocols are followed.

Through this process many community members expressed interest in highlighting the indigenous history of the area via educational interpretive panels or public art in the park. A first step in this direction is the installation of a juried public art piece ‘Earth Drums’ created by artist Carey Newman which was installed in September 2019 in the southern portion of the park.

3.5 Underground infrastructure in the park

Sanitary sewer, water and stormwater infrastructure currently exists on the site—crossing the park and extending into surrounding neighbourhoods (Figure 9). There is also extensive irrigation and drainage associated with the golf course which has not been documented as part of this project.

3.6 Environmental characteristics

Terrain

Cedar Hill Park is located on the crest of a hill with steep slopes facing the south. As a result, the park has an abundance of sunshine that supports pockets of Garry oak trees and associated habitats. The park also enjoys beautiful vistas over the open golf fairways with views over the surrounding neighbourhoods and the distant Olympic Mountains.



Figure 10 Photo of Vista View of Cedar Hill Park, courtesy of Peter Haddon

Watershed

Due to the topography of the park the northern portion of Cedar Hill Park is in the Colquitz Watershed, which is one of the largest watersheds in the region. Stormwater from the northern portion of the park including Kings Pond will eventually make its way into Portage Inlet.

The southern portion of the park is in the Bowker Creek Watershed, which to a large extent, has been straightened and enclosed in ditches and pipes. Barwick Pond and Reach 17 both flow into Bowker Creek, which eventually discharges into the Juan de Fuca Strait in Oak Bay. A portion of Reach 17, which is located in the active Golf Course Zone has been piped which then discharges into an open section near the

Cedar Hill Park is one of 59 Saanich Parks with a Pulling Together Program which accounts for 18,500 volunteer hours per year (2019) dedicated to the removal of invasive species.

baseball diamonds and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. The Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year action plan to restore the Bowker Creek watershed was developed by the Bowker Creek Initiative (BCI) in September 2010 and was endorsed by the Districts of Saanich, Oak Bay and the City of Victoria and in October 2011. Recommendations for Reach 17 include “naturalizing the creek, continuing to remove invasive species, ban or reduce the use of pesticides/herbicides at the golf course, and examine the feasibility of daylighting portions of the creek as it passes through the golf course and re-slope the banks of the creek.”⁴

“improve Kings Pond and enforcing dogs on leash”

For maps of both watersheds, see Appendix 8.10.

Natural areas

Cedar Hill Park has a number of identified natural areas within its boundaries both surrounding the golf course and within the active golf course zone. In 2019 it is estimated that there are 12.9 hectares of natural areas in Cedar Hill which is broken down as shown in the following table. The natural areas located in the public portions of the park represent 69% of this portion of the park. The other 31% is allocated to the park trail and open space. The natural areas located in the active golf course zone represent about 9% of the active Golf Course Zone.

Park ‘natural areas’ are defined in Saanich Parks Natural Areas Management Guidelines as ‘park spaces that are relatively undisturbed and contain a high percentage of native species, providing habitats for a

NATURAL AREAS in the park	12.9 hectares (approx.)
Located within the Public Park Portions	9.4 (70%)
Located within the Active Golf Course Zone	3.4 (30%)

diversity of vegetation and wildlife’. These areas are managed by striking a balance between environmental integrity, social well-being and economic vibrancy.⁵

Natural areas are an important part of the overall Saanich Parks system providing residents with access to nature and associated recreational opportunities. Natural areas are a unique subset of parkland—different from groomed parks in that they present unique and different opportunities

Table 2 Natural areas calculations

and management challenges. Compared to open spaces, natural areas require different management programs. The park’s open spaces have been adapted for play and heavy traffic and are groomed so they have an orderly appearance and are maintained by Saanich staff. Natural areas are maintained to preserve habitat and ecosystem functioning while accommodating low intensity activities. This work is coordinated by Saanich staff with the assistance of volunteers and community groups who focus on controlling or eradicating invasive plants and noxious weeds as well as the restoration of natural areas where appropriate.

“the volunteers are doing an amazing job”

Protecting and managing natural areas located within Cedar Hill Park is seen as a high priority for those individuals who participated in the public engagement sessions in both Phase 1 and 2. Natural Areas in the park have been identified (see Figure 20 in Appendix 8.8).

4 The Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year action plan to restore the Bowker Creek watershed, 2010

5 District of Saanich Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines, June 2011

Invasive plants

Cedar Hill Park has pockets of invasive plants. Formalized removal of invasive species has been occurring for over 14 years (since 2005) largely by volunteers. In any given year, volunteers at Cedar Hill Park contribute an average total of 1,100 hours to the removal of invasive species. These hours are accrued from the formalized Pulling Together Program; members of Friends of Cedar Hill Park who dedicate time to removing invasive species on a weekly basis and at annual events; as well as other community groups such as schools, university classes and members of the Bowker Creek Initiative. Saanich staff also contribute to the work particularly since the establishment of the Natural Areas section in the Parks Division. The removal of invasive species in the park has been the responsibility of the golf course staff since 2005, who managed the volunteers in this park until 2019. This area of focus, along with past, present and future restoration activities, is a major contributor to the golf course obtaining certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf.

Invasive plants currently found in Cedar Hill Park:

- Daphne (*Daphne laureola*)
- English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)
- English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Golden Willow (*Salix alba* 'Vitellina')
- Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)
- Scotch Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)

Jim Moores and Paul Bishop were the first to volunteer to remove invasive species – starting as early as 2005. At the time of this planning process, both continue to act as Lead Stewards for the Pulling Together program.

Many 'Friends of Cedar Hill Park' members participate by assisting this program on a weekly basis and often work with Saanich Parks to organize regular special 'invasive species' removal events.

Invasive species are species of plants, animals or other organisms introduced from other regions and have the potential to negatively ecosystems. They are often referred to as aliens, exotics, foreign, or non-native. They are regarded as harmful when their introduction or spread threatens the environment, economy or society, including human or animal health. It should be noted that not all introduced plants are invasive or harmful. The spread of invasive species has become a major concern for ecologists, naturalists, and land and water managers across the province of British Columbia. Awareness about the ecological and economic impacts caused by invasive species has grown over the past decade. It is estimated that the spread of invasive species is second only to habitat loss as the major cause of declining biodiversity. The control and management of invasive species is increasingly becoming a priority for land managers. Saanich is committed to directing existing resources to those invasive species with high ecological impact or those that pose risks to human health.⁶

For more information about Invasive Species in our local community please refer to both the Saanich and CRD websites.

Human impact

The biggest threats to the existing natural areas are invasive species and encroachment by neighbours (dumping of debris and using sections of the park as yard space). Dogs are required to be on leash on trails throughout the park, but if traveling off-leash they too can significantly impact natural areas and damage the golf course.

Sustainability at Cedar Hill Park

From concerns over climate change, to drought-related water shortages, and poor air quality, we as a society face a number of environmental issues on a local, national and global level. These issues impact our quality of life as well as the lives of future generations. There is growing evidence that indicates that we need to shift our behavior to reduce over-consumption and environmental degradation. By adopting some sustainable measures in parks such as Cedar Hill, Saanich could contribute to meaningful changes in our region.

⁶ Saanich Invasive Species Management Strategy, April 2013

3.7 Existing amenities at Cedar Hill Park

Below is a list of amenities in the park as of 2020.

- Cedar Hill Golf Course (18 holes) (Managed by Saanich Recreation (operations of this facility is out-of-scope for this planning process) – including a Club House, five (5) Maintenance Sheds, a Pro Shop and Practice Driving Range)
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre (Managed by Saanich Recreation (operations of this facility is out-of-scope for this planning process))
- McRae House (leased from Saanich by Saanich Volunteer Services)
- 3.6 km park trail around the perimeter of the park (also known as the chip, loop or perimeter trail)
- Two (2) baseball diamonds
- Four (4) parking lots (Kings Pond, Derby Rd, Cedar Hill Rd and Finlayson)
- Kings Pond
- Reach 17
- Barwick Pond (water detention pond)

“separate bikes from walkers...”

“For those elderly and immobile who cannot use the paths create level paths near carparks”

3.8 Recreational opportunities

Cedar Hill Park currently offers a variety of recreation opportunities. A list partially generated from the comments received via a public survey in 2017 is below.

Existing passive recreation opportunities

- Walking, dog walking and running/jogging on the park trail. Saanich Parks installed infrared trail counters in the park from June 2017 to June 2018 (12 months). It was determined that there are an average of 470 trips around the park trail per day. The busiest months were March to October with May being the busiest month. The northern portion of the trail is utilized slightly more than the southern portion. Average trip is 521 versus 413. Detailed trail statistics can be found in Appendix 8.11.
- Bird Watching
- Photography
- Visiting Kings Pond (including feeding ducks)
- Picking berries
- Nature appreciation
- Enjoying the vistas
- Plein-air painting and sketching
- Stargazing
- Geocaching

“appreciate the chip trail, sense of safety and vistas”

Existing active recreation opportunities

- Softball
- Volunteering in the park and at recreation centre
- Tobogganing in the winter
- Social gatherings
- Golf (out of scope of project)
- Utilizing the Recreation Centre (out of scope of project)
- Bicycling

“hill below McRae House should have a playground”

Bicycling in Cedar Hill Park is currently only allowed on the Derby Trail connector (east/west). Bicycle counts conducted in that location (summer 2018) indicate that approximately 2,300 cyclists use the Derby Connector each month and that peak use is Monday to Friday in the morning and afternoon indicating that it is a known commuter route.

**Note trail statistics can be found in Appendix 8.11*

Cycling on the golf course trails and on the park trail is not allowed yet cyclists use on these trails is increasing which is an unsafe practice and creates issues for golfers and walkers.

Through this planning process, as well as previous discussions with the community dating back to 2003, there has been an interest providing a bicycle connection in the north-east corner between Queensbury Ave/Epsom and Doncaster Drive. In 2003 Council agreed that the trail should not be opened up for cycling as the nature of the trail was not suitable for multi-use activities.

Active Transportation has been identified as a key priority for the Government of British Columbia through the CleanBC initiative. As part of the government's plan they have developed a BC Bicycling Policy which encourages communities to provide convenient bicycle facilities to support and encourage cycling. Saanich has also adopted their own Active Transportation Plan (2018) which recommends the following; "develop new trails and pathways through parks to improve active transportation connections (Action 1C.5)"⁷ which includes the connection between Queensbury and Doncaster.

3.9 Park management

The operation and management of the park is unclear, in the public's eye. This can largely be attributed to the fact that, prior to this planning process 85% of the park was managed by the Recreation Division. Most of these areas are used exclusively by paid patrons of the Golf Course and Recreation Centre but this also included the perimeter trail which is enjoyed by the general public. As a result 'Park Management' emerged as a theme heading into Phase 2 of the planning process.

Discussions about staff functions with both managers and staff with regard to the public areas of Cedar Hill Park started in the spring of 2018 which then culminated in a management agreement in March, 2019. Areas primarily utilized by the general public will be managed by the Parks Division allowing the Recreation Division to concentrate staff resources on the management of the recreation centre and the golf course. These changes were implemented immediately and that transition began in April 2019 resulting in 75% of the property continuing to be managed by the Recreation Division whereas the remaining 25% which represents the perimeter trail and other areas enjoyed by the general public are now managed by the Parks Division. A breakdown of which division manages the various aspect of Cedar Hill Park as well as the map of the Active Golf Course Zone (Figure 26) can be found in Appendix 8.12. The park's Land Use Breakdown can be found in Table 1.

The areas of the park used by the general public (non-golfers) include:

- Derby Parking Lot
- Park Recreational trail (around the outside of the golf course)
- Kings Pond/Barwick Pond
- Natural areas outside of the active golf course zone
- Derby Connector Recreational Trail (E/W connector for cyclists and pedestrians)
- Softball diamonds
- Open fields/space surrounding the recreation centre
- Hill below McRae House
- Parking Lot off of Finlayson
- Overflow Parking Lot off Finlayson (a portion of which must remain parking lot as this was part of the parking calculations when the Art Centre was built)
- Southern portions of Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek)
- Golf Course Clubhouse (restaurant, washrooms and banquet facilities)

4 Vision & themes – where we want to be

4.1 Creating a Park Vision Statement

In Phase 1 a series of facilitated public events and Stakeholder Working Group meetings were held to establish the Vision and supporting values for the Cedar Hill Park Management Plan which were endorsed by council on April 9, 2018.

With the assistance of public surveys, an Ideas Fair, conversations with youth and the Stakeholder Workshop, main issues facing the park, strengths and weaknesses for the park as well as park values were identified. These are all listed below and all directly contributed to the creation of the Vision Statement which the Management Plan is built upon.

Strengths identified for Cedar Hill Park:

- Large, beautiful park with vistas
- Natural areas with Garry Oak ecosystems
- Diverse activities in a central location
- Nice, safe, yet challenging park path for unstructured exercise, walking, running, etc.
- Arts facility
- Public community golf course
- Affordable recreation opportunities

Weaknesses identified for Cedar Hill Park:

- Lack of gathering/social spaces
- Limited food services
- Limited maintenance of natural areas, trails and benches
- Poor drainage in certain areas
- Inadequate wayfinding signage
- Recreation Centre is reaching capacity
- Bike/pedestrian conflict along the Derby Connector
- Lack of good N/S route for bicycles
- Limited outdoor activities for children, youth & families
- Limited access for those with mobility challenges
- Poor access to park from Recreation Centre parking lot
- South edge of park (off Finlayson) is not attractive or welcoming
- Kings Pond is poorly structured and is over-run with invasive plants
- Water quality and pollution of Reach 17

Park issues:

- Communication/planning challenges
- Management needs
- Natural areas management
- Park design and recreational amenities

Values identified for Cedar Hill Park:

Below are the three main values that members of the Stakeholder Working group and the general public identified for Cedar Hill Park.

Preserving the natural environment

- Preserving/enhancing environmentally sensitive areas
- Removal of invasive plant species
- Enhancing riparian areas (namely Reach 17 [tributary of Bowker Creek] and Kings Pond)
- Protection from encroachment into the park

A place for physical and social well being

- Outdoor opportunities for all, including children, youth, and those with disabilities/mobility issues
- Affordable access to unstructured recreation, golf, and recreation programs
- Facilitate active transportation connections between and within neighbourhoods

Building community

- Education about natural environment and park history
- Creating spaces for community to gather / celebrate
- Food services that are welcoming hubs for nourishment and community gathering

Cedar Hill Park vision statement

From these foundations the following vision statement was created by the Stakeholder Working Group which was then circulated to interested community members and posted on the project website for public comment. This vision statement was presented to council at the conclusion of Phase 1 in April 2018. The vision describes the ideal future of Cedar Hill Park as:

“Cedar Hill Park balances nature, community, and recreation in a harmonious way. People, place, and the environment share an intimate connection that fosters mutual health and well-being. We are all stewards of the park, committed to its long-term preservation and enhancement.”

During this planning process it emerged that individuals hold different values and uses for this park. This is not surprising as it represents diversity in the community. There are those who value this park for its natural attributes and hope that all open areas (the golf course included) would be restored back to a natural state. There are those who value the park for its recreation attributes and although they appreciate the natural backdrop that the park provides, the primary purpose of being in the park is to utilize the recreation amenities it provides (golf, walking trails, cycling route, recreation centre etc.). The District’s role is to find a balance in these two points of view (which many people also fall within). The vision statement, goals and actions of the plan articulate that balance. This approach can be termed ‘Recreation in Nature’ - an approach that balances the preservation and restoration of natural areas with existing and new amenities to be introduced into the park.

4.2 Prevalent themes which emerged through public engagement

Data collected via the engagement activities in Phase 1 were coded and with the assistance of the Stakeholder Working Group and our facilitator and then grouped into prevalent themes and goals (as listed below).

Environmental management and restoration

- Enhancements to Bowker Creek and Kings Pond
- Removal of invasive plants in natural areas
- Restoration and planting of native plants in restored natural areas

Connectivity and mobility in the park

- Review bicycle connections through park (N/S and E/W)
- Access from recreation centre parking lot into park
- Welcoming entrance to park/parking lot at Finlayson
- Enhancements to entrance/parking/viewing area at Queensbury/Kings Pond
- Review of bicycle parking facilities at each building
- Exploration of accessible pathway at south-end of the park near or surrounding the recreation centre and at Kings Pond

Recreation, play & gathering places for all ages and abilities

- Picnic tables and benches in key areas
- Play areas (e.g., nature playground) for young children
- Sport amenities (e.g., exercise stations)
- Sport/recreation amenities for youth (e.g., parkour, climbing wall, bike skills, zip line, multi-sport court, soccer net)
- Community garden/orchard
- Gathering/special event space (for picnics, music, concerts, etc.)

Park management

- Inter-departmental communication and roles
- Maintenance of park trail and benches
- Maintenance of natural areas
- Communication and engagement with volunteers, community associations, park permit holders and the wider community
- Management of dogs off leash
- Encroachment into the park from neighbours
- Drainage of lower fields
- Community use of food service facilities at both the recreation centre and golf course)
- Washroom availability

Opportunities for enhanced recreational opportunities

When gathering information at the various public engagement activities in Phase 1 park visitors indicated they were interested in having more recreational opportunities in the park, provided that they do not impact the natural areas of the park and are an amenity that can be enjoyed by many. Some of the most mentioned 'desired' amenities include:

- Additional benches
- Picnic tables
- Children's play area(s)
- Youth play area(s)
- Dog off-leash area
- Accessible pathways in key locations
- Washroom at north end of park
- Adult exercise stations
- Upgrade entrances and parking areas
- Upgrade area surrounding Kings Pond
- Outdoor courts (tennis and pickleball)
- Improve Derby recreation connector route (pedestrian/cyclist)
- Provide bicycle access from Queensbury to Glacier
- Social gathering space for community events

5 Goals & actions – how we get there

The themes formulated in Phase 1 were used to develop the following goals and actions

5.1 Environmental management and restoration

Goal 1:

Move the Bowker Creek Blueprint forward (Reach 17)

As identified in the Bowker Creek Blueprint, Reach 17 has issues with channeling and erosion and there are opportunities to add detention areas to assist with peak flows, habitats, biodiversity and improving water quality.

As part of this planning project, a local engineering firm, Kerr Wood Leidal and Associates (KWL), completed a Technical Feasibility Study of Reach 17. As part of their work, KWL reviewed the Bowker Creek Blueprint (which they also authored) and determined how the Blueprint's objectives could be met and accomplished in Cedar Hill Park including water storage to reduce peak flows into Bowker Creek, improve habitat values and the protection and improvement of water quality. These objectives will also help the Golf Course meet environmental stewardship objectives required for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses which addresses wildlife/habitat protection and enhancement, biodiversity, conservation, improved water quality and public education/engagement.

KWL's recommendations are depicted on the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) and can be found in the Technical Memorandum located in Appendix 8.9. To clarify, KWL assessed the entire section of Reach 17 in the park, including the golf course and the sections between the two pedestrian bridges. Their recommendations considered the cost/benefit of the proposed actions.

Actions:

- 1.1 Based on modeling completed by Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) in 2018, develop a detailed plan for improvements to sections of Reach 17 which will include some public interaction with the creek (viewing, etc.).
- 1.2 Seek funding opportunities (grants and community partnerships) to complete the restoration as planned in Action 1.1.
- 1.3 Implementation of improvements to Reach 17 which includes public amenity improvements such as a viewing opportunities, interpretive/educational signage, and seating.

Outcome:

Improvements to Reach 17 would be implemented to increase habitat, and biodiversity in the park as well as reduce peak flows of Reach 17. Educational information will assist in the public understanding about the importance of Reach 17 to the Bowker Creek Watershed and the benefits of creek restoration.

Goal 2:

Restoration of Kings Pond

Kings Pond is not functioning optimally for a number of reasons. One key reason is the invasive Golden Willow trees (*Salix alba vitellina*) introduced to this area. The trees are providing a successful barrier for the golf course but are overtaking the area and may be impacting the flow of water through the area. The majority of public survey respondents (2017 survey) stated that maintenance, restoration and improved amenities were necessary at Kings Pond. It should be noted that the turtles in the pond are the non-native Red-eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). The habitual feeding of the ducks at this pond has created issues with overcrowding, disease and attracting rodents.

Actions:

- 2.1 Complete an assessment and develop a restoration plan for Kings Pond, including nearby wetlands to the north of the park (Kings Pond Park/Jenkins Pond Park).
- 2.2 Seek funding opportunities (grants and community partnerships) to complete and implement the restoration and amenity improvements.
- 2.3 Implementation of the restoration plan which considers public amenity improvements such as a viewing area, interpretive signage, seating, etc., at the pond.

Outcome:

The ecological health of the pond will be improved. Along with the ecology of the area, the public interface of the pond will be improved – creating a comfortable, attractive and accessible place where the community can be educated about the ecology of the area as well as view wildlife.

Goal 3:

Provide a clear plan for the protection and enhancement for the natural areas in the park

Volunteers, community groups, students and staff working in the park (including within the active golf course) are removing invasive species and completing approved restoration activities. It has been identified that these groups could benefit from a plan of action going forward. Saanich Parks has already developed an Invasive Species Management Strategy and has Natural Areas Management Guidelines and Action Plans in place. These strategies, guidelines and action plans need to be applied to Cedar Hill Park.

Action:

- 3.1 Utilize current strategies, policies and guidelines to develop a plan of action for a systematic approach to removing invasive species and restoring mapped and identified Natural Areas in the park (see Figure 20 in Appendix 8.8).
- 3.2 Provide support, guidance, education and direction to volunteers who are assisting with invasive species removal and restoration activities in the park via the Pulling Together Program.
- 3.3 Ensure that staff from the Parks Division (Natural Areas, Stewardship and Urban Forestry) are available to assist Golf Course staff to complete restoration activities within natural areas in the active Golf course zone.

Outcome:

Identified natural areas are free of invasive plants and are restored both within and outside the active golf course zone.

Volunteers are supported by the Parks Pulling Together Program staff and are provided with a clear understanding and guidance as to where to focus their efforts.

*Note: Invasive species removal and restoration in areas outside of the active golf course zone will be done by volunteers, supported by parks staff. Invasive species removal and restoration in areas inside the active golf course zone will be completed by golf course staff supported by parks staff (not volunteers unless by special invitation). This is due to liability and risk considerations on an active golf course.

Goal 4:

Obtain Audubon Sanctuary Certification for Cedar Hill Golf Course

The Golf Course is currently working toward obtaining Audubon Certification via the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf, which will, help enhance the natural areas, wildlife habitats and water bodies located in the park and minimize environmental impacts typically associated with golf course operations (environmental best management practices).

The Golf Course received recognition from the Audubon Society in Environmental Planning (2018) and was accepted into the certification program. Completion of the program is expected to take up to five years.

Actions:

- 4.1 Create avenues to support the golf course to achieve Audubon certification (planning and design, natural areas management, mapping, etc.)
- 4.2 Implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) which will benefit the golf course and have a positive impact on the ecological functions of the park.

Outcome:

The golf course, including the waterbodies found within it, will achieve Audubon Certification and best management practices will be implemented contributing to the ecological health of the park.

Goal 5:

Restore a portion of the hill below McRae House back to a Garry oak meadow and plant fruit trees at McRae House

In Phase 1 there was high interest in having community garden opportunities in the park. However previous proposals for gardens have not moved forward due to community opposition. In Phase 2 the suggestion of a Community Orchard was made which was moderately well received (some were opposed to the idea) and has been shown as a potential activity for the hill below McRae House. Saanich's Community Garden policy supports the establishment of one community garden in each neighborhood (local area) and currently there is not a community garden located in the Quadra Local area. If a community orchard were to be established it would be operated under the same policy as other Community Gardens in Saanich and would be operated by a volunteer group⁸. A more palatable alternative could be for a portion of the hill to be restored as a Garry Oak meadow (as depicted in Figure 12), provided the view to and from the heritage house is maintained. The Stakeholder Working group suggested that having a few heritage fruit trees planted near McRae House could be appreciated by the community.

Action:

- 5.1 Consider having portions of the hill (vistas retained) restored as a Garry Oak Meadow and plant a few (max. 4) heritage fruit trees planted near McRae House.

Outcome

The open field below McRae House is utilized as open field space flanked by restored Garry Oak Meadows. Fruit from heritage fruit trees are available to the community to enjoy.

Goal 6:

Consider sustainable measures for the park

Saanich has developed a number of plans and policies to ensure that the municipality continues to grow as a sustainable community. In 2019 Council declared a Climate Emergency. Sustainable measures to be considered for Cedar Hill Park include:

Actions:

- 6.1 Suggestions for reducing the number of cars at events (thus minimizing the need for larger parking areas) include:
 - Temporary bicycle parking areas at large events (Action 2B.5 in the Saanich Active Transportation Plan).
 - Parking attendants at any major events.
 - Provide shuttles for larger events by partnering with schools and malls who have large parking area close by.
 - Incentives (discounted admission, free coffee, etc.) for those who walk, cycle or bus to events.
 - Provision of bus information to promote public transit.
 - Encourage car-pooling for people participating in group activities or for special events taking place in the park.
 - Encourage staff to conference call or bicycle or car-pool to meetings at the park.

⁸ Saanich Council Policy – Community Gardens, March 2003

- 6.2 Implement recycling practices for special events and for those who are taking out permits in the park.
- 6.3 Encourage the reduction of emissions from landscape maintenance equipment. Newly purchased equipment should meet the highest available standards for emissions reductions.
- 6.4 When retrofitting irrigation systems in the park use the latest technology to ensure the most efficient watering for the area.
- 6.5 Take an ecological design approach when planning new or renovating park amenities such as parking lots etc.. Sustainable design statements should be placed in all contract specifications and then be reiterated in the pre-construction information to contractors working in the park. This would include restoring and landscaping areas, where appropriate, with shrubs and additional trees - increasing biodiversity, habitat and the urban forest (see Appendix 8.8 for more details about Natural Areas).
- 6.6 Continue to maintain mature trees in the park and golf course and where appropriate plant new trees to add to the urban forest canopy.
- 6.7 Continue to work with by-law officers and environmental educators to curb encroachment from neighbouring residents into the park.

Outcome:

These and other sustainable measures will be implemented in the programming, design, planning, management and maintenance of the park and become second nature to those who work, volunteer, and utilize the park. These initiatives will help reduce vehicle trips, traffic congestion, and emissions. Design changes will support the protection and improvement of the natural environment.

5.2 Connectivity and mobility in the Park

When gathering information at the various public engagement sessions in Phase 1 and 2, the community indicated they were interested in more opportunities for people with mobility issues as well as improved connectivity for cycling, particularly in the NE corner of the park. The idea of providing a NE cycling connection created significant tension in the community with proponents and opponents which need further work.

There was also a desire to have parking areas and park entrances identified as being in Cedar Hill Park, be more attractive and reflect the natural values of the park.

Goal 7:

Make parking lots more inviting, efficient and attractive

The main parking lots leading into the park at Finlayson, Kings Pond, and Derby Rd. are not clearly identified, unorganized and are not aesthetically pleasing.

It should be noted that:

- The Kings Pond parking area is not in the park, but is located in the Queensbury Ave. road right-of-way. Parks staff worked with Engineering staff to have some parking curbs installed in the parking area in 2018 so that cars were not parking on the park trail as it passed by Kings Pond.
- Current parking ratios at the Golf Course and Recreation Centre were established when the permits to build these buildings were granted.

Actions:

- 7.1 Upgrade parking lots located in the park so they are organized more efficiently and have environmental enhancements (e.g., stormwater management, tree protection and native planting) which will make the parking lots more attractive and compliment the natural values of the park. When upgrading the Finlayson parking lot (lower and upper) ensure there is, i) flexibility to allow for enhancements to Reach 17, and, ii) space for the required minimum number of overflow stalls for the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.
- 7.2 Make entrances to the park more identifiable by utilizing the existing Park ID Sign Strategy. Other features that can be placed at park entrances include, educational signage, kiosks, maps and landscaping.
- 7.3 Install wayfinding signage along the recreational park trail that includes the names of streets leading from the park, where it is appropriate to cycle and where it is not, and the location of washrooms and other amenities.

Outcome:

Park entrances are identifiable, well organized, attractive and where possible augmented with ecological design.

Goal 8:

- a. Redesign the Derby connector multi-use trail so that it is safe and reduces user conflict**
- b. Assess the possibility of a safe active transportation connection for those traveling N/S in or around the park (to be completed via further planning work including public engagement)**

Cyclists, pedestrians and golfers have all expressed frustration with the Derby Connector trail, which provides a multi-use East/West trail connection through the park. This is the only trail in the park that is approved for multi-use. It has been identified as a high conflict zone particularly where it passes between the Derby Rd. parking lot, golf clubhouse and pro-shop. The Derby Connector trail would benefit from design upgrades to make it a well-functioning multi-use trail.

Currently there are no specific active transportation connections to safely and easily travel North/South in or around the park. This issue has been discussed as far back as 2003 when cyclists lobbied Council to access the park trail in the N/E corner of the park between Queensbury/Ascot/Epsom to Glacier. At that time Council decided that cyclists would not be allowed to bicycle on the trail but that they could dismount and walk bicycles in this corner of the park. Since then active transportation is on the rise. Some cyclists ignore the 'no cycling rule', cycling on the park trail and also on the golf course cart paths. The District has

a Council approved Active Transportation Plan (adopted by council in 2018) which identifies the section of trail in the N/E corner of the park as a desirable upgrade to provide for a safe active transportation connection between Queensbury Ave. and Doncaster Dr., linking up to other established active transportation and identified safe routes to school. One of the public engagement questions was “Should Saanich Parks review the feasibility of a multi-use pathway connection in the NE corner of the park (Queensbury to Glacier), which was included in the approved Active Transportation Plan. The response to this question was split—roughly half of the survey respondents wanted to proceed with the review and the other half were against any active transportation being allowed on the recreational park trail. Those who were opposed did not want a shared trail nor any trees or natural areas destroyed. Some were also concerned with the increase in people using the park close to homes.

The Park Management and Control Bylaw does not prohibit cycling (active transportation) in the park. However; the park trail was designed as a pedestrian trail and the terrain does not lend itself well for a multi-use trail in it's current state.

Actions:

- 8.1 Upgrade, and in some locations, redesign the Derby Connector E/W multi-use recreation trail so it that provides a clear and safe route for all particularly in the area between the Pro Shop, past the Clubhouse and exiting through the Derby Rd. parking lot.
- 8.2 Identify and evaluate the feasibility of establishing an active transportation route for safe and easy N/S navigation in or around the park. Criteria for the review should include:
 - the provision for a separated trail;
 - an environmental assessment of any proposed design, and
 - further public consultation/engagement including the cycling community and others interested in active transportation.
- 8.3 Ensure the public is aware of any policies relating to modes of active transportation use in the park.
Note: As per the Council decision in 2003, park users can walk their bicycles/unicycles/skateboards etc. through the trails in Cedar Hill Park.

Outcome:

Active transportation users have an opportunity to navigate in or around the park in a safe way allowing them to easily connect to other established active transportation routes that link them to parks, schools, shopping, work etc.

Goal 9:

Provide opportunities in the park for those with limited mobility

Cedar Hill Park has challenging terrain which is ideal for those individuals who are physically able to walk or jog in challenging terrain. However, not all community members have the ability to enjoy the park due to limited access. Saanich's Older Adult Strategy recommends that accessible outdoor walkway loops be developed near each of the four Saanich recreation centres.

Survey respondents also felt there was a need for improvements to accommodate those with mobility challenges such as accessible trails in areas of high interest, and amenities (benches, tables, playgrounds, parking, etc.). Design details will be determined at the time of implementation and will take into consideration the vision and values expressed for the park.

Actions:

- 9.1 Create an accessible, trail (paved or hard-packed gravel) in a suitable area in and around the Recreation Centre which has view and/or interaction with Reach 17.
- 9.2 Upgrade Kings Pond viewing area so that it can be accessed by those with mobility challenges (in conjunction with Goal 2).
- 9.3 Review the two steep areas (north of Barwick Pond and area between McRae House and the Recreation Centre) to determine if minor upgrades could be made to reduce the grade in steepest sections.
- 9.4 Review trails in areas where vehicles also utilize the trail (both the Derby Connector trail and Oceanview Road near McRae House - Figure 11) and introduce design changes to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for trail users, yet still allowing for occasional vehicle traffic.

Outcome:

Cedar Hill Park will have opportunities for those with mobility challenges to enjoy areas of high interest in the park and the park's recreational trail continues to be a safe and comfortable for all users of the park.

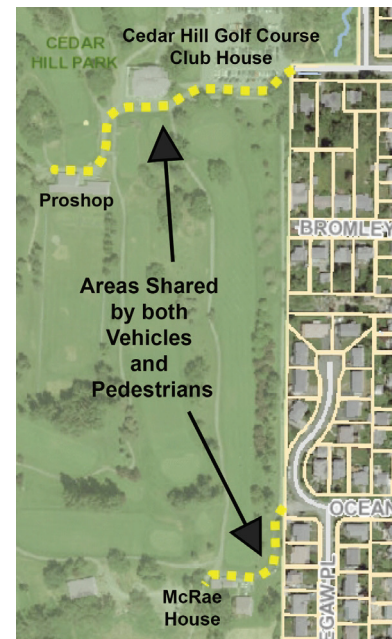


Figure 11 High conflict zones (Derby Connector and Ocean View)

5.3 Recreation, play and gathering places for all ages and abilities



Figure 12 Open Space Masterplan

The public has indicated they are interested in having more recreational opportunities in the park, provided that they do not impact the existing natural areas of the park. Currently the non-golf course portion of Cedar Hill Park does not provide many recreational opportunities for children, youth and those with mobility issues. The proposed new amenities will contribute to providing diverse, centrally located and affordable recreational opportunities for the people and families of Saanich. The goals in this section are depicted in the Open Space MasterPlan (Figure 12). This diagram illustrates and guides the placement of restoration and amenity projects that will be built when funds and resources become available. Design details will be determined at the time of implementation and will take into consideration the vision and values expressed for the park.

Many respondents who completed the survey in Phase 1 indicated that the hill below McRae House could be better utilized for recreational amenities such as a social space, playgrounds, amphitheater, allotment gardens, sport facilities, waterpark, or disc golf. In Phase 2, while there was still interest in utilizing this field area for recreational amenities, there was also strong opposition to this idea. By leaving the area unstructured, the open space surrounding the Recreation Centre and near the Finlayson parking lots are the only areas in the park to introduce additional amenities into the park. The Open Space Plan (Figure 12) has been developed to create future opportunities for community amenities (as indicated through the following goals). The intention is to create an area in the park that is approachable, accessible, stimulating and fun by providing additional opportunities to walk, sit, play and exercise.

Benefits of nature and outdoor play

Numerous articles, studies and organizations have publicized the benefits of being in nature and participating in outdoor recreation and play. It is well known that getting outdoors and being active is good for the body and spirit—but it isn't always obvious about what is achieved when people are active in the outdoors. Below is summary of some of the benefits of participating in outdoor pursuits.

Psychological

Viewing nature, recreating and living in a natural area can be supportive to human mental health and wellbeing.

Physical health

Being active and exercising regularly, helps to keep your body nimble and fit. Also, just being in nature can boost a person's immune system.

Personal development

The Institute of Outdoor Learning⁹ talks about how outdoor activities can enable participants to enhance their personal, social and communication skills, as well as gaining and enhancing spiritual, sensory and aesthetic awareness.

Environmental benefits

Increased environmental awareness normally develops from participating in outdoor recreation, which can then lead to increased involvement in environmental issues. As people spend more time in the natural environment they tend to take more ownership and have a deeper appreciation which results in better care and stewardship, e.g., less littering, wildlife being left undisturbed.

Economic benefits

According to the Institute of Outdoor Learning outdoor recreation has economic spin-offs including:

- People who regularly participate in outdoor recreation tend to be more productive at work.
- Outdoor recreation creates jobs (both paid and volunteer).
- Parks, open space and natural areas tend to increase property values.

⁹ Institute of Outdoor Learning , www.outdoor-learning-research.org

Goal 10:

Upgrade the open space with the ball diamonds for both baseball and other events and uses

The existing softball baseball diamonds are small (youth sized) and do not drain well. A number of sports/social clubs, recreational softball teams as well as the Special Olympics reserve the fields most evenings (6 days a week) during ball season (May to August). Special Olympics is the only group who use both diamonds but they have stated that they can create a temporary diamond in the available open space when required. (April to June). It is reported that the field is often vacant in the off-season. The westerly field is very close to Reach 17.

Actions:

- 10.1 Remove one ball diamond to create a soft ball-diamond that is slightly larger and allows for more space near the creek and for other activities.
- 10.2 Ensure the open field (including ball diamond) has improved drainage as well as a power and water kiosk so that special events and other activities such as picnics, Ultimate Frisbee, etc., could be held in this location. Design details will developed when this area is to be upgraded.

Outcome:

The open field is utilized regularly for a variety of activities when not in use for Softball – some planned and permitted and others impromptu.

Goal 11:

Provide additional picnic & seating opportunities in the park

There are very few picnic opportunities in the park. The only tables are close to either the recreation centre or the golf clubhouse. There are currently 28 benches located around the perimeter of the park, but not in areas near the proposed amenities.

Action:

- 11.1 Add additional picnic tables and benches in the park near new amenities (when implemented) and as recommended in the Saanich Older Adult Strategy. At a minimum, there should be a small grouping of 2-3 picnic tables (picnic area that could be permitted) for small activities and events; picnic tables near the future playground; and, benches near new amenities, along the new and improved paths as well as a select few in stretches of the recreational park trail where there are no benches currently located.

Outcome:

Park users have places to sit and picnic in carefully thought-out areas which are easily accessed.

Goal 12:

Develop youth (ages 13 to 18) specific activities (to be finalized via further public engagement)

When youth were interviewed as part of the public engagement process, they pointed out that there is very little for youth in Cedar Hill Park nor are there youth oriented outdoor spaces in the vicinity of this park. In the Saanich Youth Development Strategy (adopted by council in 2015), Saanich committed to providing more activities and opportunities for youth in our parks. Current trends show that youth amenities need to be exciting and enticing so that outdoor activities can compete with less active yet exciting indoor opportunities.

Actions:

- 12.1 Engage with youth representatives and the community to help develop the style and design plans (at time of implementation) for a youth specific amenity in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) that can accommodate older children between the ages of 13 to 18. Suggestions included a bike skills course, parkour course, etc. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.

Outcome:

An exciting, unique and well received youth facility is located at Cedar Hill Park, one that is in-keeping with the Vision Statement developed for the park.

Goal 13:

Develop a ‘Model 1’ playground for children ages 2 to 12 (to be finalized via further public engagement)

Through this process the community expressed a desire for a playground in this park as it is a major destination for families even though there are parks in the area that have playgrounds for children in this age category. Many comments received indicated that a nature based playground would be desirable in this park and that it should be unique and different from the standard playgrounds found throughout the municipality.

It is a standard in Saanich parks to provide separate opportunities (often within the same play space) for both younger children aged 2 to 5 and older children aged 5 to 12

Actions:

- 13.1 Engage with families who have young children and the community to help develop, design plan for the creation of a nature based playground in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) that can accommodate both younger children 2 to 5 and older children from 5 to 12. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.

Outcome:

An exciting, unique playground (different than traditional playgrounds found in other local parks) is located at Cedar Hill Park, one that is in-keeping with the Vision Statement developed for the park.

Goal 14:

Provide outdoor exercise equipment opportunities in the park (to be finalized via further research and public engagement)

Phase 1 community feedback indicated that an outdoor exercise equipment circuit would be desirable in the park. However, in Phase 2 the response to this was mixed. Recreation program staff feel that an exercise circuit would be a desirable amenity if it were positioned close to the recreation centre. Programs could be organized around the equipment, as it is an affordable way to work out and is something that may appeal to older adults.

Actions:

- 14.1 Engage with recreation centre staff and the community when developing design plans for the implementation of an outdoor exercise (calisthenic) circuit in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12). Ideally this amenity would have safety surfacing. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.

Outcome:

A well-researched, safe and appropriate outdoor calisthenic circuit is located at Cedar Hill Park—one that is open to the public, in-keeping with the Vision Statement developed for the park, and can be programmed by the Recreation Centre on occasion.

Goal 15:

Ensure park visitors have access to adequate washroom facilities in the park

Currently park visitors have access to washroom facilities at both the Recreation Centre and the Golf Clubhouse, but only when those facilities are open. In Phase 1 people indicated that they would like additional facilities but it was unclear if it was because there were too few in the park or because they were not open during certain times. In Phase 2 the suggestion was referred to the Parks Washroom Operations and Capital Plan Project.

Actions:

- 15.1 Refer the analysis of washroom facilities at Cedar Hill Park to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Washroom Operations and Capital Plan.
- 15.2 Provide adequate signage indicating where current washrooms are located.

Outcome

Park visitors are aware of where washroom facilities are located in the park.

Goal 16:

Identify and conduct a planning process should there be an expansion to the recreation centre in the future

As the population of Saanich grows there may be a need for more recreation programming. At that time it may be identified that the Recreation Centre needs to expand. Currently there are no immediate plans for an expansion.

Actions:

- 16.1 If/when, the Recreation Centre is facing the need to expand then a planning process with public engagement will be conducted.

Outcome

A planning process with public engagement will be conducted, should there be a need to expand the footprint of the Recreation Centre.

5.4 Park management

Goal 17:

Communications with community

Ensure the community has an opportunity to learn about activities planned for the park and, when appropriate, the public is in a conversation about these activities.

Actions:

- 17.1 Friends of Cedar Hill Park, Community Associations (Quadra Cedar Hill, Camosun and Mt Tolmie) and other community groups, individually or together, are encouraged to invite Park Managers/Supervisors to a meeting or have a conversation, on an as needed basis, to discuss park priorities and projects that may be of interest to these groups.
- 17.2 In keeping with the District's Public Engagement Policy the public, stakeholders and community associations etc. would be informed or consulted about new proposed park amenities via posters, website, mail outs, surveys, and public engagement events.
- 17.3 Saanich Parks continue to review communication avenues including web pages and social media to provide relevant information about the park.

Outcome

Community members, stakeholders, community groups and associations, and the Friends of Cedar Hill Park have the ability to make themselves aware of projects taking place in the park and where appropriate are able to comment and converse about those projects.

6 Implementation

An implementation guideline is essential to meeting the actions presented in this plan. Actions have a priority designation as follows:

- number indicates generally which years the action should occur

Table 3 Priority Table

Priorities	
Goal #	Priorities Year 1-5
Goal 16 and 17	Notify or engage with the community about any significant changes proposed for the park or recreation centre
Goal 4 and 6	Consider sustainable measures and Best Management Practices for events and work in the park
Goal 9	Review high conflict zone at Oceanview/McRae House (modify to make it more clear and safe for recreational trail users)
Goal 8a	Upgrade and redesign Derby Road Connector multi-use trail (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 7 and 15	Install wayfinding signage along the recreational trail around the park
Goal 1	Develop a detailed plan for improvements to Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek)
Goal 1	Seek funding opportunities or community partnerships to implement improvements to Reach 17
Goal 2	Complete an assessment of Kings/Jenkins Pond and then develop a restoration plan
Goal 2	Seek funding opportunities or community partnerships to restore Kings Pond
Goal 2	Implement Kings/Jenkins Pond restoration/improvement plans including improvements to the viewing area (funding dependant)
Goal 3	Develop a plan for the protection and enhancement of Natural Areas in the park
Goal 7	Make entrances (x3) more identifiable and attractive
Goal 7	Upgrade one parking lot (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 8b	Identify and evaluate the feasibility of a possible bicycle route in or around the N/E corner of the park
Goal 11	Provide additional picnic tables and benches as new amenities are installed or needed

Goal 12	Design a Youth Amenity
Goal #	Priorities Year 6-20
Goal 12	Implement a Youth Amenity
Goal 1	Implement Reach 17 restoration/improvement plans including the addition of educational signage (funding dependant)
Goal 7	Upgrade two more parking lots (cost share with other departments and possibly acquire supplemental funds)
Goal 9	Create an accessible path near the recreation centre
Goal 10	Upgrade open space (ball diamonds) with improved drainage and power/water for both softball and other events/activities.
Goal 13	Design and implement a 'Model 1' playground for children 2 to 12
Goal 9	Review and possibly modify steep areas of the recreational trail
Goal 14	Design and implement an outdoor exercise circuit
Goal 5	Restore a portion of the hill below McRae House back to a Garry oak meadow and plant fruit trees at McRae House.

6.2 Budget and priority

Below is a Class D (see definition in Appendix 8.1) estimate of costs and a preliminary time-line for the goals presented in this plan. Budget is subject to Council approval which may affect time-lines.

Table 4 Budget and Priority Table

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)	
Environmental management and restoration				
1	Move the Bowker Creek Blueprint forward (Reach 17)			
	1.1	Based on modeling completed by Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) in 2018, develop a detailed plan for improvements to sections of Reach 17 which will include some public interaction with the creek (viewing, etc.).	Year 1 to 5	\$120,000
	1.2	Seek funding opportunities (grants and community partnerships) to complete the restoration as planned in Action 1.1.	Year 1 to 5	\$10,000
	1.3	Implementation of improvements to Reach 17 which includes public amenity improvements such as a viewing opportunities, interpretive/educational signage, and seating.	Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	Sub-total		\$130,000	
2	Restoration of Kings Pond			
	2.1	Complete an assessment and develop a restoration plan for Kings Pond, including nearby wetlands to the north of the park (Kings Pond Park/Jenkins Pond Park).	Year 1 to 5	\$45,000
	2.2	Seek funding opportunities (grants and community partnerships) to complete and implement the restoration and amenity improvements.	Year 1 to 5	Ongoing Operational Budget
	2.3	Implementation of the restoration plan which considers public amenity improvements such as a viewing area, interpretive signage, seating, etc., at the pond.	Year 1 to 5	To be determined based on assessment and design
	Sub-total		\$45,000+	

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
3.	Provide a clear plan for the protection and enhancement for the natural areas in the park		
	3.1 Utilize current strategies, policies and guidelines to develop a plan of action for a systematic approach to removing invasive species and restoring mapped and identified Natural Areas in the park (see Figure 20 in Appendix 8.8).	Year 1 to 5	\$15,000
	3.2 Provide support, guidance, education and direction to volunteers who are assisting with invasive species removal and restoration activities in the park via the Pulling Together Program.	Ongoing	Ongoing Operational Budget
	3.3 Ensure that staff from the Parks Division (Natural Areas, Stewardship and Urban Forestry) are available to assist Golf Course staff to complete restoration activities within natural areas in the active Golf course zone.	Ongoing	Ongoing Operational Budget
	Sub-total		\$15,000
4.	Obtain Audubon Sanctuary certification for Cedar Hill Golf Course		
	4.1 Create avenues to support the golf course to achieve Audubon certification (planning and design, natural areas management, mapping, etc.)	Ongoing	Annual Operational and Capital Budgets
	4.2 Implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) which will benefit the golf course and have a positive impact on the ecological functions of the park.	Ongoing	
	Sub-total		\$0
5	Restore a portion of the hill below McRae House back to a Garry oak meadow and plant fruit trees at McRae House		
	5.1 Consider having portions of the hill (vistas retained) restored as a Garry Oak Meadow and plant a few (max. 4) heritage fruit trees planted near McRae House.	Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	Sub-total		\$0

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
6.	Consider sustainable measures for the park		
	6.1 Suggestions for reducing the number of cars at events (thus minimizing the need larger parking areas) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary bicycle parking areas at large events (as per Action 2B.5 in the Active Transportation Plan). • Parking attendants at any major events. • Provides shuttles for larger events by partnering with schools and malls who have large parking area close by. • Incentives (discounted admission, free coffee, etc.) for those who walk, cycle or bus to events. • Provisions of bus information for promotional materials. • Encourage car-pooling for people participating in group activities or for special events taking place in the park. • Encourage staff to conference call or bicycle or car-pool to meetings at the park. 	Ongoing	Event budgets
	6.2 Implement recycling practices for special events and for those who are taking out permits in the park.	Ongoing	Event budgets
	6.3 Encourage the reduction of emissions from landscape maintenance equipment. Newly purchased equipment should meet the highest available standards for emissions reductions.	Ongoing	Annual Capital Budget
	6.4 When retrofitting irrigation systems in the park use the latest technology to ensure the most efficient watering for the area.	Ongoing	Annual Capital Budget
	6.5 Take an ecological design approach when planning new or renovating park amenities such as parking lots etc.. Sustainable design statements should be placed in all contract specifications and then be reiterated in the pre-construction information to contractors working in the park. This would include restoring and landscaping areas, where appropriate, with shrubs and additional trees - increasing biodiversity, habitat and the urban forest (see Appendix 8.8 for more details about Natural Areas).	Ongoing	Annual Capital Budget
	6.6 Continue to maintain mature trees in the park and golf course and where appropriate plant new trees to add to the urban forest canopy.	Ongoing	Annual Capital Budget
	6.7 Continue to work with by-law officers and environmental educators to curb encroachment from neighbouring residents into the park.	Ongoing	Annual Capital Budget
	Sub-total		\$0
	TOTAL: Environmental management and restoration		\$190,000+

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
Connectivity and mobility in the park			
7.	Make parking lots more inviting, efficient and attractive		
	7.1 Upgrade parking lots located in the park so they are organized more efficiently and have environmental enhancements (e.g., stormwater management, tree protection and native planting) which will make the parking lots more attractive and compliment the natural values of the park. When upgrading the Finlayson parking lot (lower and upper) ensure there is: i) flexibility to allow for enhancements to Reach 17 and, ii) space for the required minimum number of overflow stalls for the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.	One parking lot in Year 1 to 5 Other two lots in Year 6 to 20	\$275,000 +/- To be determined
	7.2 Make entrances to the park more identifiable by utilizing the existing Park ID Sign Strategy. Other features that can be placed at park entrances include, educational signage, kiosks, maps and landscaping.	Year 1 to 5	\$30,000 (\$10,000 each)
	7.3 Install wayfinding signage along the recreational park trail that includes the names of streets leading from the park, where it is appropriate to cycle and where it is not, and the location of washrooms and other amenities.	Year 1 to 5	\$50,000
	Sub-total		\$355,000
8.	Redesign the Derby connector multi-use trail so that it is safe and reduces user conflict.		
	Assess the possibility of a safe active transportation connection for those traveling N/S in or around the park .		
	8.1 Upgrade, and in some locations, redesign the Derby Connector E/W multi-use recreation trail so that provides a clear and safe route for all particularly in the area between the Pro Shop, past the Clubhouse and exiting through the Derby Rd. parking lot.	Year 1 to 5	\$150,000+
	8.2 Identify and evaluate the feasibility of establishing an active transportation route for safe and easy N/S navigation in or around the park. Criteria for the review should include: a. the provision for a separated trail; b. an environmental assessment of any proposed design, and c. further public consultation/engagement including the cycling community and others interested in active transportation.	Year 1 to 5	\$30,000
	8.3 Ensure the public is aware of any policies relating to modes of active transportation use in the park.	Year 1 to 5	Ongoing
	Sub-total		\$180,000

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
9.	Provide opportunities in the park for those with limited mobility		
	9.1 Create an accessible, trail (paved or hard-packed gravel) in a suitable area in and around the Recreation Centre which has view and/or interaction with Reach 17.	Year 1 to 5	\$90,000
	9.2 Upgrade Kings Pond viewing area so that it can be accessed by those with mobility challenges (in conjunction with Goal 2).	Year 1 to 5	\$100,000
	9.3 Review the two steep areas (north of Barwick Pond and area between McRae House and the Recreation Centre) to determine if minor upgrades could be made to reduce the grade in steepest sections.	Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	9.4 Review trails in areas where vehicles also utilize the trail (both the Derby Connector trail and Oceanview Road near McRae House) and introduce design changes to ensure a safe, comfortable environment for trail users, yet still allowing for occasional vehicle traffic.	Year 1 to 5	\$20,000
	Sub-total		\$210,000
	TOTAL: Connectivity and mobility in the park		\$745,000+
Recreation, play and gathering places for all ages and abilities			
10.	Upgrade the open space with the ball diamonds for both baseball and other events and uses		
	10.1 Remove one ball diamond to create a soft ball-diamond that is slightly larger and allows for more space near the creek and for other activities.	Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	10.2 Ensure the open field (including ball diamond) has improved drainage as well as a power and water kiosk so that special events and other activities such as picnics, Ultimate Frisbee, etc., could be held in this location. Design details will developed when this area is to be upgraded.	Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	Sub-total		\$0

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
11.	Provide additional picnic & seating opportunities in the park		
	11.1 Add additional picnic tables and benches in the park near new amenities (when implemented) and as recommended in the Saanich Older Adult Strategy. At a minimum, there should be a small grouping of 2-3 picnic tables (picnic area that could be permitted) for small activities and events; picnic tables near the future playground; and, benches near new amenities, along the new and improved paths as well as a select few in stretches of the recreational park trail where there are no benches currently located.	Year 1 to 5 and Ongoing as new amenities are implemented	\$25,000 + via Annual Capital Budgets and Furniture Donation Program
	Sub-total		\$25,000+
12.	Develop youth (ages 13 to 18) specific activities (to be finalized via further public engagement)		
	12.1 Engage with youth representatives and the community to help develop the style and design plans (at time of implementation) for a youth specific amenity in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) that can accommodate older children between the ages of 13 to 18. Suggestions included a bike skills course, parkour course, etc. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.	Design Year 1 to 5) Implementation Year 6 to 20	Annual Operating Budget To be determined
	Sub-total		\$0
13.	Develop a playground for children ages 2 to 12 (to be finalized via further public engagement)		
	13.1 Engage with families who have young children and the community to help develop, design plan for the creation of a nature based playground in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) that can accommodate both younger children 2 to 5 and older children from 5 to 12. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.	Design Year 1 to 5) Implementation Year 6 to 20	Operating Budget To be determined
	Sub-total		\$0

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
14.	Provide outdoor exercise (calisthenics) and circuit training) opportunities in the park (to be finalized via further research and public engagement)		
	14.1 Engage with recreation centre staff and the community when developing design plans for the implementation of an outdoor exercise (calisthenic) circuit in the location identified in the Open Space Plan (Figure 12). Ideally this amenity would have safety surfacing. The exact style and design of amenity will be determined by space, budget, current trends as well as the community.	Design & Implement Year 6 to 20	To be determined
	Sub-total		\$0
15.	Ensure park visitors have access to adequate washroom facilities in the park		
	15.1 Refer the analysis of washroom facilities at Cedar Hill Park to the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Washroom Operations and Capital Plan.	N/A	✓ Done
	15.2 Ensure adequate signage indicating where current washrooms are located.	Year 1 to 5	Included in Action 2.3
	Sub-total		\$0
16.	Identify and conduct a planning process should there be an expansion to the recreation centre in the future		
	16.1 If/when, the Recreation Centre is facing the need to expand then a planning process with public engagement will be conducted.	N/A	N/A
	Sub-total		\$0
	TOTAL: Recreation, play and gathering spaces		\$25,000+

Goal no.	Goal and actions	Priority	Cost (in 2020 \$)
Park Management			
17.	Communication with the community		
	17.1 Friends of Cedar Hill Park, Community Associations (Quadra Cedar Hill, Camosun and Mt Tolmie) and other community groups, individually or together, are encouraged to invite Park Managers/Supervisors to a meeting or have a conversation, on an as needed basis, to discuss park priorities and projects that may be of interest to these groups.	Ongoing	N/A
	17.2 In keeping with the District's Public Engagement Policy the public, stakeholders and community associations would be informed or consulted about new proposed park amenities via posters, website, mail outs, surveys, and public engagement events.	Ongoing	N/A
	17.3 Saanich Parks continue to review communication avenues including web pages and social media to provide relevant information about the park.	Year 1 to 5	N/A
	Sub-total		\$0
	TOTAL: Park management		\$0
	GRAND TOTAL (Year 1 to 5)		\$960,000+

7 Conclusion

Cedar Hill Park is a valued community asset for its recreation values, (golf, walking trail and recreation centre) as well as the natural areas/wetlands found around the park, and amazing views over fairways of the surrounding neighborhoods and the Olympic Mountains to the south.

The actions laid out in this Management Plan will guide the future of the park with a strong focus on maintaining natural values and allowing for a variety of recreation activities. Cooperation between the various users, who have different wants and desires, combined with attentive management will be the key to successful implementation of the plan.

8 Appendices

8.1 Definitions and notes

Active golf course zone

Area in the park that is used actively by the Golf Course, including the fairways, greens and golf cart paths.

ACTIVE Net

A cloud-based recreation management solution that helps community organizations manage activities, improve customer engagement and increase participation. Used to prepare park permits and program registration for recreation activities.

Budget – Class D

A preliminary cost estimate to determine order of magnitude of a project. This budget is subject to change and will evolve into more definitive budget estimates as more detailed decisions and designs are determined.

High ecological values

Is when an ecosystem is seen to have high worth and thus contributes greatly to enhancing the health of the surrounding environment.

Infrared trail counters

Detects the infrared wavelength that people emit by emitting an invisible infrared beam of light across the trail. The reflector (person) returns the light beam back to the receiver where a count is registered. These counters are typically used to count people—walkers, hikers, joggers and cyclists who pass by and area.

Invasive species

Are species (animal, plant or organism) introduced to areas outside their natural past or present distribution. They are often referred to as aliens, exotics, foreign, or non-native. They are regarded as harmful when their introduction or spread threatens the environment, economy, society, including animal and human health.

Invasive species removal

To prevent, reduce, control and mitigate the effects of invasive species on natural ecosystems, human health and the economy.

Natural Areas

A park natural area is a geographical area located in a park that is relatively undisturbed and contains a high percentage of native species, providing habitats for a diversity of vegetation and wildlife.

Park trail

Recreation trail which circumnavigates Cedar Hill Park which is also commonly referred to as the ‘chip, loop or perimeter’ trail.

Preservation

Preservation attempts to maintain or keep an area of the park in its original state or in good condition.

Restoration

Restoration is defined as returning an area in the park to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition.

Respectful use

For the purpose of this plan, ‘respectful use’ is defined as an activity that does not negatively impact the natural environment. Prolonged travel through vegetation, deliberately damaging vegetation, and leaving garbage or dog waste behind are examples of activities that *do* negatively impact the natural environment.

Sensitive areas

Is an area that is seen to require special protection because of its landscape or ecological value.

SWG

Stakeholder Working Group

Tempest call for service

Tempest's 'calls for service' system is a tracking tool used by municipalities for entry, dispatch and follow-through of generated requests for service.

Youth

Are children who are between the ages of 13 and 18 and are considered to need more challenging experiences than younger sets of children.

Plants noted in this document * = invasive

Common name	Botanical name
Native trees	
Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>
Big Leaf Maple	<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>
Black Cottonwood	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>
Black hawthorn	<i>Crataegus douglasii</i>
Garry Oak	<i>Quercus garryana</i>
Pacific Willow	<i>Salix lucida</i>
Pine (various)	<i>Pinus var. ssp.</i>
Western Redcedar	<i>Thuja plicata</i>
Non-native trees	
*English Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
*Golden Willow	<i>Salix alba vitellina</i>
Native shrubs, perennials and vines	
Douglas' Spirea/Hardhack	<i>Spiraea douglasii</i>
Indian Plum	<i>Oemleria cerasiformis</i>
Nootka Rose	<i>Rosa nutkana</i>
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>
Tall (Holly-leaf) Oregon-grape	<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>
Twisted Oak Moss	<i>Syntrichia laevipila</i>

Common name	Botanical name
Non-native shrubs, perennials and vines	
Camas	<i>Camassia quamash</i>
Daphne Laurel/Spurge-laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>
*English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
*Holly (English)	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>
*Poison-hemlock (noxious weed)	<i>Conium maculatum</i>
*Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
*Scotch Broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>

8.2 Stakeholder working group meeting notes

For Stakeholder Working Group meeting notes see the Additional Appendices.

8.3 Cedar Hill Golf Course and Recreation Centre out-of-scope operations defined

From the outset of the project, the day-to-day operations of both the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre and Cedar Hill Golf Course were outside the scope of this project. However, over the course of this planning process a few members of the community expressed interest in providing comment on the day-to-day operations and future of these two facilities which are managed by the Recreation Division. In 2012, Council made specific decisions regarding the Cedar Hill Golf Course and in 2019, a Recreation Market Analysis was conducted for all the recreation facilities in Saanich. These two factors help to inform the future of both those facilities. For the purposes of clarification, the Stakeholder Working Group determined what aspects of the golf course and recreation centre operations are considered out-of-scope for the Cedar Hill Park Management Plan which are listed below:

- Staff level and administration (Management)
 - Current budget development and allocation both operational and capital (Management/Council)
 - Fees and charges (Management/Council)
 - Implementation of recreation programs, services and rental activities within the facilities (Staff)
 - Future development, expansion or change in service levels (to be addressed in a separate services study and through the Strategic Facilities Master Plan)
 - Implementation of building and course maintenance activities and priorities (Staff/Management)
- Finalized at Stakeholder Working Group Meeting #5 (December 5, 2017)

8.4 Comments received regarding Cedar Hill Golf Course and Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

The following comments were received about both the Cedar Hill Golf Course as well as the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. The operations of both are considered to be out-of-scope for this project, however a commitment was made to the Stakeholder Working Group to record any comments made about both facilities in Appendix 8.4 of this report to ensure that these comments were not lost. These comments have not been analyzed nor evaluated—merely documented verbatim from the various comments received via surveys and letters.

Cedar Hill Golf Course

- Offering of Disc Golf
- Open Golf Course to general public for special occasions (walking, scavenger hunts, etc.)
- Have a plan for the future status of Golf Course should the demand for golf decreases and changing demographics coupled with economic realities imply new uses for these lands.
- Space in the centre should be for recreation centre programs and community activities such and not rented for someone to make a profit, such as a health care provider.
- How much longer should we allow an activity which uses so much park space for so relatively few people to enjoy?

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

- Expanded services
- Expand the building envelope
- Create a Youth Centre
- Provide Drop-In Yoga classes
- Expand the Weight room
- Create a Seniors Centre
- Add a Swimming Pool
- Add a Skating Rink
- Provide Pickleball Courts (indoor)
- Add a Woodworking Shop

8.5 Cedar Hill Park planning process (see additional appendices for summaries)



Figure 13 Photo of Members of the Stakeholder Working Group

Cedar Hill Park Stakeholder Working Group

In January, 2017 Parks staff assembled a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) comprised of representatives from the Quadra Cedar Hill, Camosun and Mt Tolmie Community Associations, the Cedar Hill Golf Club, Friends of Cedar Hill Park, CRD (Bowker Creek Initiative) and four members of staff (Natural Areas, Planning and Design and the Cedar Hill Campus). The purpose of the group was to shape the public engagement process that would determine the community's vision for the park, assist in determining what would be the most appropriate plan for the park and help ensure the wider community was engaged and consulted.

The Working Group was instrumental in determining the Vision Statement, and Park Values as well as assisted in reviewing Themes, Goals and the draft plan prior to it being presented to the general public and Council.

Public Engagement Activities - Phase 1

(January 2017 – April 2018)

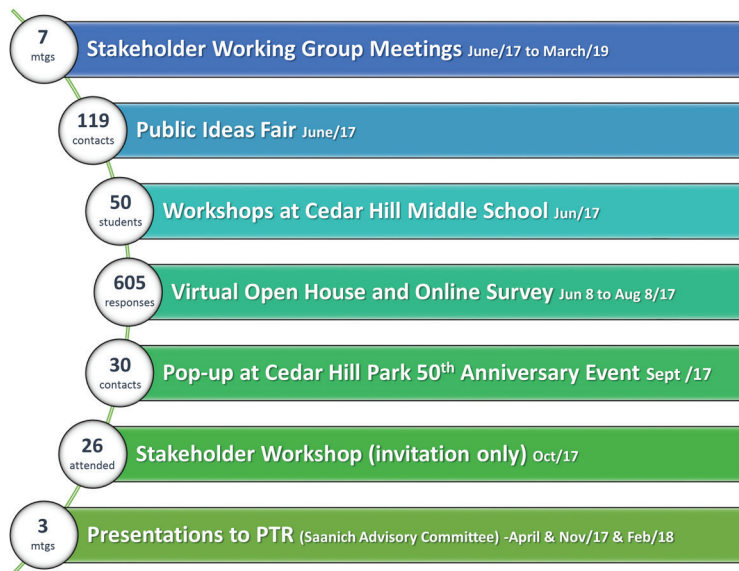


Figure 14 Public Engagement Activities – Phase 1

Phase 1: January 2017 – April 2018

There were two objectives set for Phase 1. The first was to develop a guiding Vision Statement for the Park—one that reflected what the community wants for the park and to understand why. The second was to determine exactly what type of plan (Natural Areas Plan, Management Plan, Masterplan, etc.) would best suit the needs of the park (as identified through consultation with the community).

Professional planner and facilitator, Evan Peterson of Barefoot Planning was hired to assist in this first phase. In order to achieve objectives a public engagement process was undertaken throughout 2017. The following chart summarizes the activities that were undertaken in Phase 1. They included meetings with the Stakeholder Working Group, an Ideas Fair, and sessions with youth at Cedar Hill Middle School and Stakeholder Workshop where representatives from various stakeholder groups were invited to a planning session. The list of stakeholders was developed by the Stakeholder Working Group and can be found in Appendix 8.6



Figure 15 Photo of Workshop with Youth at Cedar Hill Middle School June 2017



Figure 16 Photo of comments received/collected at Ideas Fair June 2017



Figure 17 Presentation of ideas at Stakeholder Workshop Oct. 2019



Figure 18 Photo from Open House May 2019

Through these various engagement activities more than 800 individuals provided comments about the park. From the information gathered and through a series of seven facilitated meetings with the Stakeholder Working Group it was determined that a Management Plan with Masterplan elements would best serve the park and help answer the following questions.

- How would we maximize ecological health?
- How would we balance recreational and natural areas?
- How would we better design underutilized areas?
- How would we improve connectivity and accessibility?
- How would we improve park management and communication?

The vision statement for the park, identified key values and four themes emerged. A summary of Phase 1 was presented to Saanich Council for information on April 9, 2018, and formed the context of the Management Plan which was developed in Phase 2.

Public Engagement Activities - Phase 2

(September 2018 – Fall 2020)

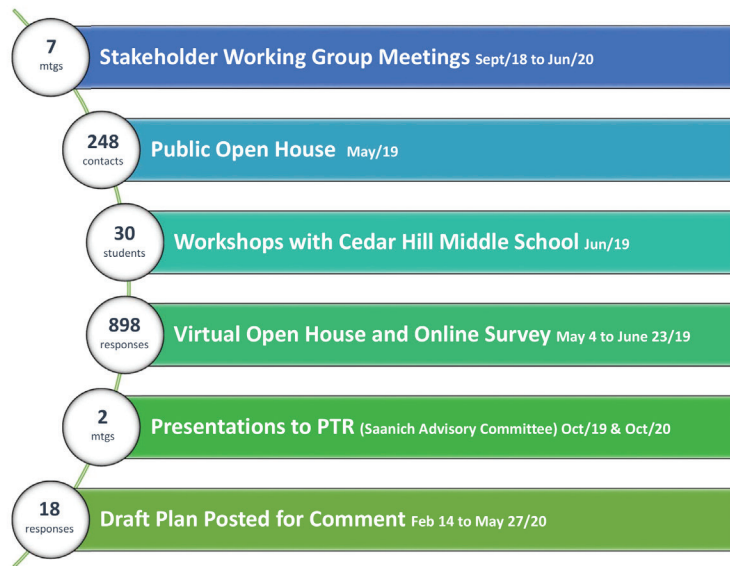


Figure 19 Public Engagement Activities – Phase 2

Phase 2: September 2018 – Fall 2020

Phase 2 of the process focused on the development of the Management Plan with some Masterplan components which stated goals for the future as well as a conceptual layout for recommended park amenities that were identified through public engagement. These amenities will be implemented over the next 20-year period. Saanich Parks will work with the community regarding the site specific details at the time of implementation. The community reviewed the proposed recommendations and commented on various options proposed for the park – this included a public Open House and survey followed by the draft plan being posted for review and comment on the Saanich website. The final plan will then be presented to Saanich Council for endorsement in the fall of 2020. The following chart summarizes the activities that were undertaken in Phase 2.

In both phases, the Cedar Hill Park Stakeholder Working Group played a key role in ensuring that the public was effectively engaged and represented in the plan.

Note: Summaries of public engagement events, including the Stakeholder Workshop and surveys are located in the additional appendices.

8.6 List of identified community contacts and internal stakeholders

Park stakeholders

One of the first tasks the Stakeholder Working group completed was the development of a comprehensive list of park stakeholders. Representative from each of these groups listed below were invited to the Stakeholder Workshop (although not all were in attendance), received updates regarding the project and when applicable were contacted to provide information, invited to attend meetings, to complete surveys and attend open houses, etc. The stakeholder list included:

General - external

- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre participants (Fitness, Racquet Sports and Arts Centre)
- First Nations Representatives
- Members of the public
- Older Adults (including those who have mobility challenges)
- Park visitors
- Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- Youth Representation (workshop with students at schools – suggestions Reynolds, Cedar Hill, Cloverdale, St. Michaels)

Community associations

- Camosun Community Association (Representative: Karen Harper/Al Lubowski/Leigh Urqhart)
- Oaklands Community Association (City of Victoria)
- Mount Tolmie Community Association (Representative: Val Neaves)
- Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association (Representative: Peter & Susan Haddon and Pam Edwards)

Recreation and sports clubs (including those who hold permits to use the park)

- Cedar Hill Squash Club
- Cedar Hill Golf Club (Representative: Val Mieras)
- Cedar Hill New Horizons
- Cordova Bay Badminton Club
- Greater Victoria Mixed Softball (permit holder for softball diamonds)
- Lower Vancouver Middle School Sports Association (permit holder for races and events)
- Lower Vancouver Secondary School Sports Association (permit holder for races and events)
- South Island Mountain Bike Society
- Special Olympics Softball (softball diamond permit holder)
- Victoria All Fun Mixed Slo-Pitch League (permit holder for softball diamonds)
- Victoria Sport and Social Club (permit holder for softball diamonds)
- Victoria Regional Pickleball Association
- Volkssport

Other organizations

- City of Victoria – Parks Staff
- CRD – Bowker Creek Urban Watershed Renewal Initiative (Staff Representatives: Jodie Watson, Kitty Lloyd and Natalie Bandringa)
- Friends of Bowker Creek Society
- Friends of Cedar Hill Park (Representative: Luis Netter)
- Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria (ICA)
- Pulling Together Program Volunteers (Cedar Hill Park)
- Recreation Integration Victoria
- Saanich Volunteer Services
- Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society (VIRCS)
- Victoria Natural History Society (VNHS)

Internal District of Saanich staff

Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services

- *Parks Division (Julie Lommerse, Gary Darrah & Andrew Burger)*
- *Pulling Together Volunteer Program (Jenny Eastman)*
- *Cedar Hill Campus - Recreation Division (Carole Ireland, Ian Smith – Golf Course Superintendent)*
- *Saanich Community Services (Youth Programmer)*

Saanich Planning

- *Environmental Services*

Saanich Engineering

- *Stormwater Section*
- *Facilities Operations*

8.7 Saanich Bylaw, Policy and Planning Document Framework

Parks planning in Saanich is guided by a number of bylaws, policies, guidelines and plans, including the following:

- *Animals Bylaw, 2004, No. 8556*
- *Bowker Creek Blueprint, CRD, 2011*
- *Bylaw Enforcement Policy, 2018*
- *Cedar Hill Golf Course – Beer and Liquor Prices Policy, 1985*
- *Cedar Hill Golf Course Profit Distribution Policy, 2004*
- *Community Gardens Policy, 2003*
- *District of Saanich Strategic Facilities Master Plan, 2018*
- *Heritage Buildings – Municipal Parks Policy, 1984*
- *Moving Saanich Forward Active Transportation Plan (2018)*
- *Park Development or Improvements Policy, 1990*
- *Parks – Installation of Major Facilities of Services Policy, 1983*
- *Parks Management and Control Bylaw No. 7753*
- *Park Reservation Bylaw No. 8718*
- *Saanich Invasive Species Management Strategy (2013)*
- *Saanich Official Community Plan (2008)*
- *Saanich Strategic Plan (2011-2015)*
- *Saanich Older Adults Strategy (2017)*
- *Saanich Parks Management and Control Bylaw No. 7753*
- *Saanich Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (2013)*
- *Saanich Parks, Recreation and Community Services Trail Guidelines (2007)*
- *Saanich Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines & Action Plan (2011)*
- *Saanich Park Property Inventory (2010)*
- *Saanich Youth Development Strategy (2015)*
- *Safe Routes to School Policy, 1981 and 1996*
- *Temporary Overnight Sheltering in Saanich Parks (2019)*
- *Tree Protection Bylaw, 2014, No 9272*

NOTE: All these documents can be reviewed in greater detail on-line by visiting www.saanich.ca

8.8 Cedar Hill Park natural area and open space descriptions



Figure 20 Map of Natural Areas and Open Space (specifically relevant for Goal 3)

Cedar Hill Park natural areas and open space

Broken into zones based on terrain or dominant species (see Figure 20)

Note: some areas are managed by the Parks Section and others by the Golf Course. Volunteers only assist with areas outside the Active Golf Course Zone.

Maintenance Level of Natural Areas is Level 5 Background and Natural Areas as identified in the BC Landscape Standard ¹⁰

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
1	<p>Garry oak deep soil forest</p> <p>Notes: Mixed with both Garry Oak and ornamentals (fruit trees). Thick understory of native Snowberry, Camas as well as invasive Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy and Holly.</p> <p>Work to date: Patches of Blackberry and Ivy removed. Dumped material removed. Tree planting and small restoration has been completed in select areas.</p>
2	<p>Rocky slope</p> <p>Notes: Rocky Outcrop with no canopy mix of wildflowers (Camus) and native and non-native grasses</p> <p>Work to date: Slope cleared of Blackberry and Broom – Camus re-established.</p>
3	<p>Garry oak trail cover - West</p> <p>Notes: Mixed forest with both Garry Oak, ornamental and Invasive English Hawthorn and Golden Willow trees with an understory of Snowberry, Tall Oregon-grape, Indian Plum and Camas as well as invasive Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy, Daphne laureola and Scotch Broom. A portion of this zone is designated as and Environmentally Significant Area (ESA).</p> <p>Work to date: Select clearing of Blackberry, Ivy and Broom – Camus re-established.</p>
4	<p>Garry oak outcrop forest - park</p> <p>Notes: Rocky Outcrop with stands of Garry Oak trees with an understory of Snowberry. This area is designated as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). This is the highest point in the park.</p> <p>Work to date: Select clearing of Blackberry, Daphne laureola, and Scotch Broom from the slopes with select planting of Garry Oak trees.</p>
5	<p>Aspen grove</p> <p>Notes: Grove of Aspen Trees with large areas of Himalayan Blackberry bushes.</p> <p>Work to date: Some select clearing of Blackberry.</p>
6	<p>Kings Pond</p> <p>Notes: Large area that includes the trail to the NW of the park, the pond and the riparian to the south of pond which is part of the golf course. A portion of this zone is also in the official road right-of-way. The restoration of the pond is one of the Actions outlined in this plan. Vegetation includes Big Leaf Maple, Black Hawthorne, Garry Oak, Indian Plum, Pacific Willow, Snowberry as well as invasive species such as Golden Willow, English Hawthorne, Scotch Broom, Himalayan Blackberry, English Ivy and Daphne laureola.</p> <p>Work to date: Some select clearing of Blackberry and Golden Willow.</p>

¹⁰ British Columbia Landscape Standard, 2012

Cedar Hill Park natural areas and open space

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
7	<p>Meadow/trail</p> <p>Notes: Rough mown meadow transected by a number of paths. In 2020 one of the paths (originally a desire line) was decommissioned. This area, including the decommissioned path, has been identified as a future restoration area. It should be noted that view corridors from neighbouring houses need to be considered prior to tree planting. A portion of this zone is in the official road right-of-way which includes many of the same plants found in Zone 6.</p> <p>Work to date: Occasional removal of Blackberry.</p>
8	<p>Garry oak forest - East</p> <p>Notes: Mature Garry Oak with invasive English Holly, English Hawthorne with some native shrubs but an abundance of English and Himalayan Blackberry. Much of this area is designated as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). A portion of this zone is in the Golf Course and in the road right-of-way.</p> <p>Work to date: Removal of patches of Blackberry and Ivy. In some areas Snowberry is regenerating.</p>
9	<p>Garry oak meadow</p> <p>Notes: A rocky Garry Oak Meadow with some fruit trees. Area with mature Garry Oaks with an understory of both native and invasive species including large amounts of Himalayan Blackberry. A portion of this area is located within the Active Golf Course Zone. Areas in the open field below McRae House have been identified as future restoration areas. The plan shows these restoration areas on the outer edges of the field to ensure a view corridor to and from McRae House. View corridors from neighbouring houses also need to be considered prior to tree planting.</p> <p>Work to date: Extensive removal of Blackberry and Scotch Broom.</p>
10	<p>Lower Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek)</p> <p>Notes: Area of the open channel south of the Golf Course which has benefited from some restoration over the years – however, a more comprehensive restoration north of the most northern footbridge (wooden bridge) has been proposed as part of this plan which would include an ephemeral detention pond. The area is has some Black Cottonwood, Redcedar and Pine (var.) along with invasive Golden Willow and English Hawthorn. The understory has Snowberry, Red-Osier Dogwood, Douglas Spirea and Himalayan Blackberry.</p> <p>Work to date: Extensive invasive plant removal (Blackberry) as well as planting of a variety of native has taken place between the North and South footbridges.</p>
11	<p>Garry oak/Arbutus/Douglas fir stand</p> <p>Notes: An area that was planted over the past two decades. This area has potential for more restoration work.</p> <p>Work to date: Planting of trees over the past two decades.</p>
12 100% in Active Golf Course Zone	<p>Upper Reach 17 (tributary of Bowker Creek)</p> <p>Notes: Area of the open channel located within the Active Golf Course Zone which has recently benefited from removal of large amounts of blackberry. The area is has some Garry Oaks, with an understory of invasive Himalayan Blackberry. The area surrounding this zone has been ear marked for restoration to increase the habitat within the golf course and surrounding this water course (as shown).</p> <p>Work to date: Extensive removal of blackberry from the banks of the creek.</p>

Cedar Hill Park natural areas and open space

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
13 100% in Active Golf Course Zone	Garry oak stand Notes: Garry Oak and Snowberry planted as buffer in Golf Course Work to date: 100% restored site
14 100% in Active Golf Course Zone	Garry oak outcrop forest – golf course Notes: Rocky Outcrop with stands of Garry Oak trees with an understory of Snowberry. This area is designated as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). Work to date: Select clearing of Blackberry, Ivy and Poison Hemlock by the Golf Course Staff
15 100% in Active Golf Course Zone	Wetland Notes: Wetland to the south of Kings Pond which has a canal and planting of English Hawthorne, Nootka Rose providing an important habitat zone in the park. Work to date: Select clearing of Blackberry and invasive along the edge of this zone done by the Golf Course Staff

For list of botanical names for plants noted above see Appendix 8.1

Cedar Hill Park maintained open space

These areas in their current state are not considered to be Natural Areas – but are classified as open space used for play/exercise and aesthetics.

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
A Open Space Maintained by Golf Course	Barwick Lake Well-groomed/manicured lawn with a few native plants BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 2 - Groomed
B Open Space Maintained by Golf Course	Trail to McRae House Groomed mowed buffer against the fences of adjacent residences. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 3 to 4 – Moderate to Open Space
C Open Space Maintained by Saanich Volunteers Services	McRae House lawn Well-groomed/manicured lawn with some ornamental planting and hedging. It has been identified that the introduction of up to four heritage fruit trees on this sight would be an appropriate nod to history and would be enjoyed by park visitors. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 2 - Groomed
D Open Space Maintained by Parks	Rough mowed field Rough mowed field on a hill. Future restoration areas have been identified for the field - see Zone 9 notes. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 4 – Open Space & Play

Cedar Hill Park maintained open space

These areas in their current state are not considered to be Natural Areas – but are classified as open space used for play/exercise and aesthetics.

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
E Open Space Maintained by Parks	Mowed sports field Well-groomed lawn utilized for softball and other sports and recreation activities. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 2 - Groomed
F Open Space Maintained by Parks	Parking lot Rough mowed 1-2M buffer adjacent to the trail and parking lots. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 5 – Background
G Open Space Maintained by Parks	Grassy knoll Moderately groomed lawns sloping down to the road. This area has some potential for some buffer planting. Style to be determined. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 3 - Moderate
H Open Space Maintained by Parks	Grassy treed lawn area Irrigated and groomed lawns with Red Maple trees placed on berms for aesthetics and providing an attractive view from the street. BC Landscape Standard Maintenance Level 2 - Groomed

8.9 Kerr Wood Leidel report

As part of this planning project, a local engineering firm, Kerr Wood Leidal and Associates (KWL), completed a Technical Feasibility Study of Reach 17. As part of their work KWL reviewed the Bowker Creek Blueprint (which they also authored) and determined how the Blueprint's objective could be met and accomplished in Cedar Hill Park including storage to reduce peak flows into Bowker Creek, improve habitat values and protect and improve water quality. These objectives will also help the Golf Course meet environmental stewardship objectives required for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses which addresses wildlife/habitat protection and enhancement, biodiversity, conservation, improved water quality and public education and engagement.

Their recommendations shown on the Open Space Plan (Figure 12) and identified in Goal 1, can be found in the Technical Memorandum located in this section.

Note: For report see Additional Appendices.



Figure 22 Map of Bowker Creek Watershed

8.11 Trail statistics

Trail statistics were collected in 2017 and 2018. Infrared counters were installed on the trail for one year and then specialized counters that count bicycles only were installed on the Derby Connector for a period of time in 2018.

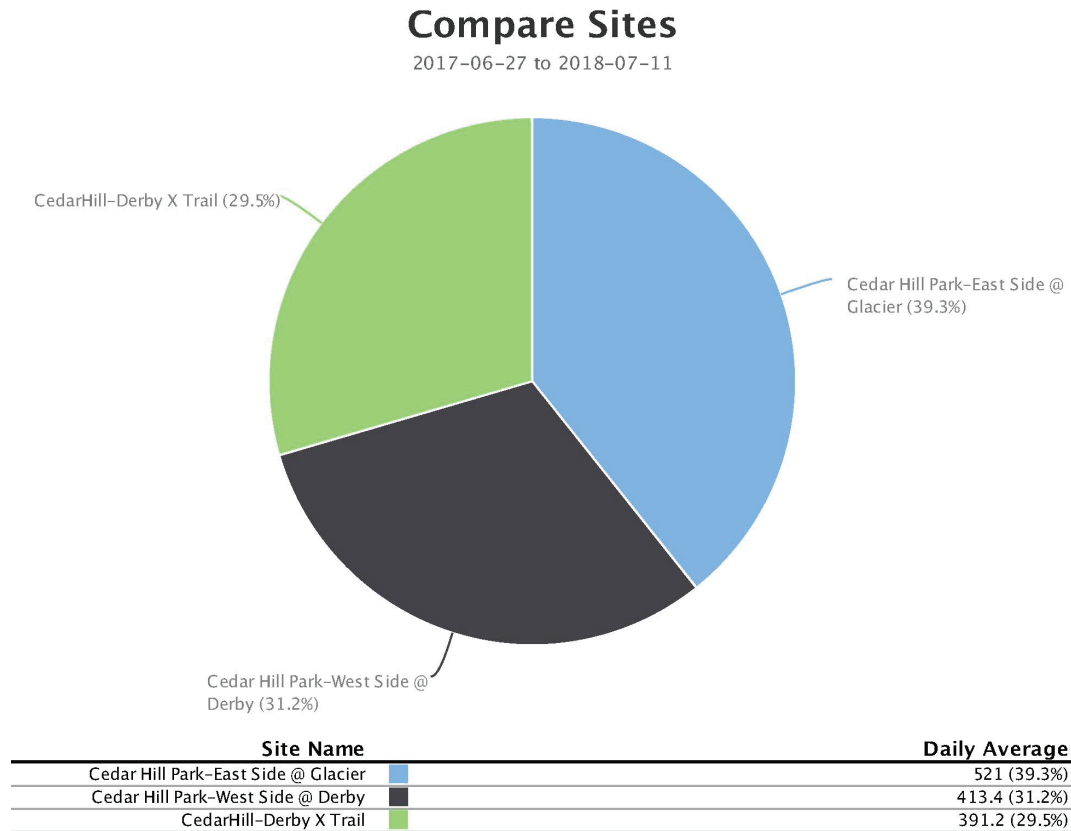


Figure 23 Park Trail Statistics

Cedar Hill Park Pathway from Derby Bicycle Count Report

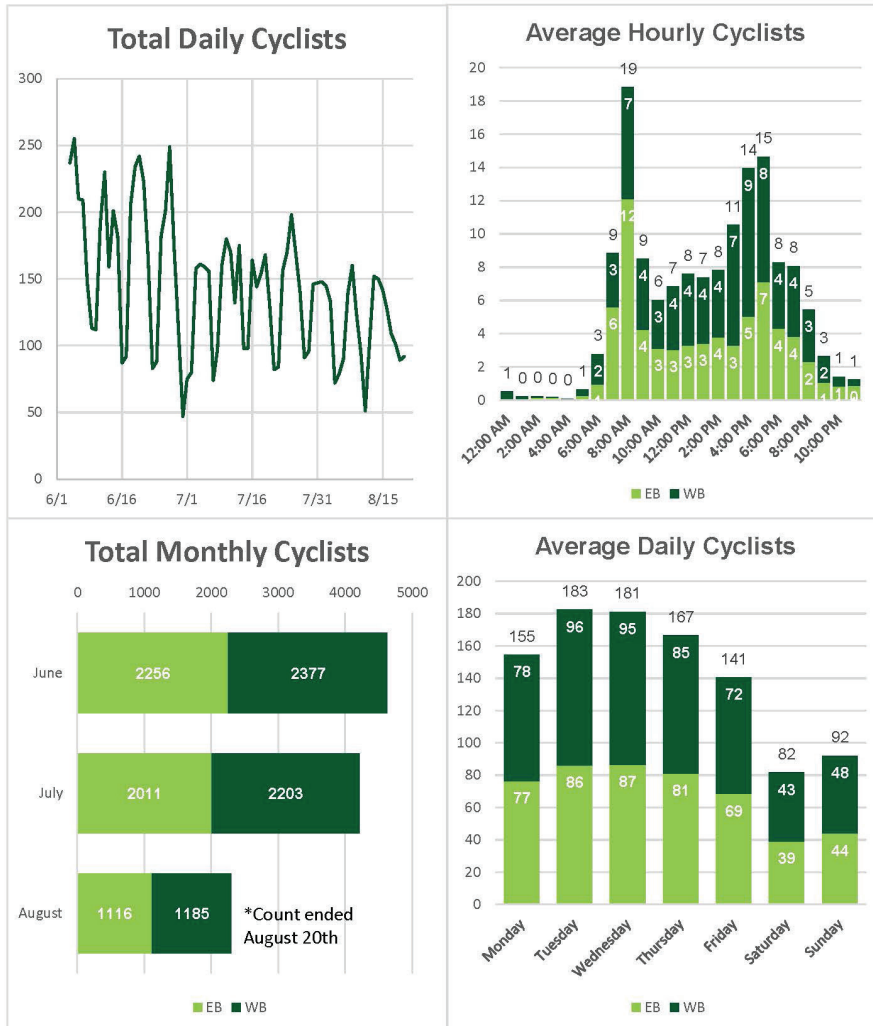


Figure 24 Derby Connector Bicycle Use Statistics

8.12 Management of areas within Cedar Hill Park

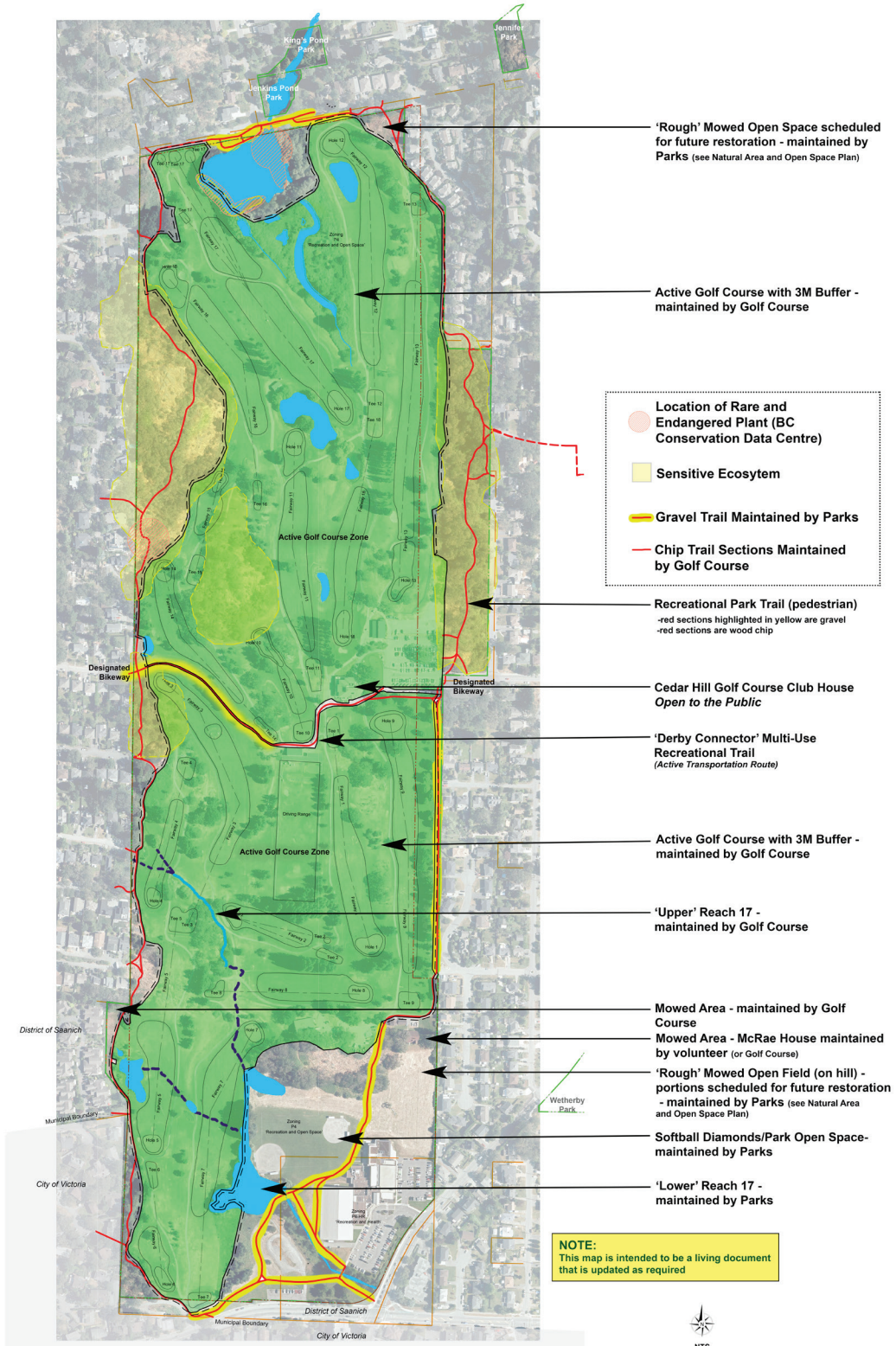


Figure 25 Map of Active Golf Course Zone and Trail Maintenance

All parks, except for Cedar Hill Park are managed 100% by the Parks Division. Cedar Hill Park is an anomaly as both the Parks, Recreation and Community Services divisions manage land in Cedar Hill Park, which has both benefits and challenges.

The main issues with this model are that:

(a) There are many players involved when discussing certain areas/issues/programs in the park so it is not clear who to contact for what (e.g., volunteers work with the golf course staff as well as Pulling Together Program staff plus the natural areas staff).

(b) The 'park' portions are not always managed with the same policies and procedures applied to other Saanich parks. This is because under this model the park is managed geographically rather than by function (e.g., land used by the public for park purposes is not managed by the parks division – but by the Recreation Division who are responsible for the operations of the Golf Course and Recreation Centre).

The main park functions that impact the areas used by the general public include:

- Construction and maintenance of the park trail
- Calls for service (tracking and response)
- Management and restoration of natural areas
- Garbage collection around the park trail
- Park signage around the park trail
- Furniture: a) donation program, b) maintenance, and c) furniture design/style standards
- Management of dogs in the park
- Restoration and management of Kings Pond/Barwick Pond/Reach 17
- Tree planting (outside the active golf course zone)
- Pulling Together Program and other volunteer initiatives
- Park planning and design for improvement or addition of park amenities
- Park permits (tracking and response)
- Encroachment into the park (tracking and response)

Through this process a number of changes have been implemented, starting in 2019 so that areas of the park utilized by the general public is now managed by the Parks Division allowing the Recreation Division to concentrate their efforts to the operations and management of both the Recreation Centre and Golf Course. The Parks Division has begun to utilize the same policies, procedures and programs applied to the rest of the parks in Saanich. They apply their professional knowledge and expertise to manage and balance the social, environmental functions of the park with their annual budgets.

It should also be noted that the Facilities Operations which is managed by Saanich's Engineering Department is responsible for the major repairs/installations to the built facilities in the park including

- McRae House
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
- Golf Clubhouse
- Golf Course Pro Shop
- Maintenance sheds

Recreation Division:

Golf course section

- Golf course operations including the maintenance and construction (including irrigation) for greens, fairways, tees, golf course tracks, golf course signage, trees, as well as 'calls-for-service' regarding the golf course
- Operations and management of the Clubhouse (including food service), Pro Shop and maintenance sheds
- Routine maintenance of the Derby Road parking lot (near Golf Clubhouse) which assistance from Parks (enhanced maintenance, planning and design)
- Management of the of the natural areas found within the active golf course zone
- Placing cedar chips and collecting refuse around the park trail
- Chance Find Archaeological Protocol within the active Golf Course Zone
- Regular communications with Parks Division

Cedar Hill Recreation Centre

- Operations and management of the Recreation Centre Building including food service, programming and the Cedar Hill Rd parking lot
- Communication with the community (Community Associations and Friends of Cedar Hill) by invitation of those groups

Parks Division:

- Park Trail construction and the general maintenance of gravel sections of the park trail
- Management, maintenance and permitting of the open space in the park including signage, park furniture, trees, Kings Pond, fields and softball diamonds
- Management and maintenance of the Finlayson Road parking lots (including the overflow lot)
- Management of the natural areas outside the active golf course zone (in conjunction with volunteers)
- Horticulture Displays (paid for by Recreation Centre)
- Chance Find Archaeological Protocol in areas outside the active golf course zone
- Management of the Derby recreational connector trail including signage
- Regular communications with Recreation Division
- Communication with the community (Community Associations and Friends of Cedar Hill) by invitation of those groups
- Calls for service relating to the park trail and open spaces

Engineering Department – Facilities Operations

Major repairs to the following:

- McRae House
- Cedar Hill Recreation Centre
- Golf Clubhouse
- Pro Shop
- Maintenance sheds
- New buildings and structures

Saanich Bylaw:

Responsible for the following bylaw violations on the park (in consultation with Parks, Recreation and Community Services) including:

- dogs off leash complaints
- illegal dumping in the park

Saanich Police & Fire

- Responsible for emergencies or illegal activities taking place in the park including urgent medical issues theft illegal camping, etc., in the park.

Saanich Volunteer Services:

- Currently maintains the gardens and lawn immediately surrounding McRae House (work done by volunteer).

8.13 References

- Bowker Creek Blueprint: A 100-year action plan to restore the Bowker Creek watershed, CRD, September 2010
- British Columbia Active Transportation Design Guide, British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, 2019 Edition
- British Columbia Landscape Standard, BC Society of Landscape Architects & BC Landscape and Nursery Association, 2012 Edition
- Bylaw #2556 to Expropriate the Cedar Hill Lands, August 29, 1966
- Bylaw #7753 Park Management and Control Bylaw, 1997
- Bylaw #8718 Parks Reservation Bylaw, 2006
- Development Plan for Cedar Hill Park, Saanich Planning Department, 1970
- District of Saanich Council Policy 03/CW – Community Gardens, March 31, 2003
- District of Saanich Invasive Species Management Strategy, April 2013
- District of Saanich Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines, June 2011
- District of Saanich Strategic Facilities Master Plan, April 2018
- How do Local Governments Improve Healthy and Community Well-Being? Plan H, January 2014
- Moving Saanich Forward Active Transportation Plan, June 2018

