

Open House and World Café to Draw Ideas about Parksville Parks

A drop-in open house and World Café will take place at the Parksville Community and Conference Centre on **Saturday, March 25 from 10 am to 3 pm**. The World Café table sessions scheduled to start at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, will provide a forum to discuss specific topics relating to the City's parks. This event aims to draw ideas from citizens on what they would like to see for the future of their parks and trails.

Students will formulate questions prior to the World Cafe which will be discussed by participants as they move between a series of tables. World Cafés are generally a structured conversational process intended to facilitate discussion, initially in small groups and then linking ideas within a larger group to access the collective knowledge of participants.

In addition to the March 25 event, an online survey, stakeholder interviews and a final public open house will take place over the next several months. Dr. Pamela Shaw, Director of the Master of Community Planning program at Vancouver Island University describes the project as, "A phenomenal opportunity for students at VIU to get involved in a real and practical project that is of interest to the community of Parksville".

The results of the information gathered during the public open house and World Café sessions and future public engagement sessions will be presented to the community later this year, prior to bringing the draft forward to Parksville Council for their consideration. Research and engagement with the community, community organizations and stakeholders, Council and staff will be used to provide the City of Parksville with data and information which will enhance the parks system.

The City of Parksville is undertaking a consultation strategy to update the Community Park Master Plan and complete a survey on all park spaces. Students from Vancouver Island University, in partnership with the City will engage residents about their vision and priorities for park land in Parksville, with specific focus on the Community Park. This process, expected to complete in October 2017, will yield a long-term, comprehensive document which will provide direction for managing and developing the Community Park over a twenty-year time horizon.

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For more information:

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