

Wheelchair Swing Removed From Community Park

Because of ongoing vandalism, the wheelchair swing located in the Lions Ventureland Playground in the Community Park was permanently removed this morning. The City is extremely disappointed; however, ongoing graffiti and vandalism to the swing has made this decision necessary; the wheelchair swing, donated by the Parksville Lions Club in 2014, will not be in service for the foreseeable future.

Since spring, we have seen an increasing amount of senseless and significant vandalism and theft to the swing. The swing is locked out to protect small children from injury when they unknowingly play on it. Although the code is readily available to an adult, the locks and the swing have seen constant vandalism.

It is disheartening for staff and the Parksville Lions Club members to continually deal with this issue and because of major safety concerns; the swing has been removed until such time as security for the park and the wheelchair swing can be improved. The City relies on Lions Club volunteers to fundraise from the community for both ongoing playground maintenance costs and equipment for the playground. Endless graffiti and vandalism has cost the City more than \$10,000 so far this year in the playground.

Installed in 2014, the swing has been extremely popular for children with accessibility needs. There are few opportunities on Vancouver Island for playground integration and the response to this swing from parents and the community has been overwhelmingly positive. For these reasons, this was a difficult decision for our operations department.

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For more information:

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