

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed November 14, 2019

### **Cambie Park being Developed Through "Partners in Parks" Program**

*New park amenities now being constructed at Cambie Park*

#### **Summary**

Cambie Park in Harewood will soon include a half sport court, a community bulletin board, fencing, and play equipment. Park development has been made possible by community volunteers and a number of generous donations.

Cambie Park was acquired by the City of Nanaimo as part of a subdivision application in 2011, and has been vacant since that time. In 2017, neighbours began planning improvements to Cambie Park through the City of Nanaimo's Partners in Parks (PIP) program. PIP is a public participation program designed to bring the ideas and efforts of volunteers together with the City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department in order to collaboratively develop and improve our parks and open spaces.

Nanaimo City Council provided a \$25,000.00 PIP grant to Cambie Park in 2017. Since that time, community members raised around \$10,000 in additional donations from Nanaimo Rotary, Chase River Country Grocer, Kinsmen Club of Nanaimo, Rotary Club of Lantzville Society, Members of Block Watch #43, and through a GoFundMe campaign. Volunteer labour and in kind donations were also provided by Island West Coast Development (IWCD) and Milner Trucking and Excavating. Park planning was guided by community volunteers and championed by Cambie Road Block Watch Captain, Shirley Gremyachev.

Construction began on October 24, and is expected to be completed by Spring 2020.

*Strategic Link: Livability:* "We proactively plan for Nanaimo's growth and focus on community infrastructure to support an inclusive, healthy and desirable place to live."

#### **Key Points**

- Partners in Parks Program (PIP) is a public participation program designed to bring the ideas and efforts of volunteers together with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture in order to develop and improve our parks and open spaces.
- The improvement plan is neighbourhood initiated and driven. This project will not directly impact taxes and will not require maintenance by neighbours.
- Construction is expected to be complete by Spring 2020.

#### **Quotes**

"We are lucky to have so many enthusiastic and dedicated groups of volunteers in our community, such as this one, who have come together with a vision to bring this space to life with many recreation opportunities and improvements. Seeing groups take advantage of programs like Partners in Parks aligns with our community vision of creating a community that is livable environmentally sustainable and full of opportunity for all generations and walks of life. "

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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