



Community Needs Will Guide Future Investments in Parks and Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – From now until the end of the year, the City will be working with the community to hear what is important to them when planning for the future of City parks and open spaces, as well as the 45 year old Crystal Pool.

The public input will inform a Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan to guide future decisions and investments across the parks system, as well as options for the renovation, expansion or replacement of the Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre.

“Victoria is celebrated for its parks and recreational opportunities, this is an opportunity to learn what the community wants more of and where we should focus our programming and investments in the coming years,” noted Mayor Lisa Helps.

The City is “going to where people are” with pop-up kiosks in parks and at events, as well as offering more traditional opportunities for providing input in the form of community working groups, focus groups, and an online survey.

The City will be popping up to hear the community’s ideas:

- Saturday, June 18, 2016 at Moss Street Market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Sunday, June 19, 2016 at Car Free YYJ from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, June 25, 2016 at Island Summer Games in Topaz Park from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information and links to the surveys visit www.haveyoursayvictoria.com.

Added Mayor Helps, “parks and recreation facilities have a powerful impact on the health and well-being of the entire community – today and for future generations. We are casting our net wide to ensure we hear from kids, parents, user groups, and taxpayers who pay for all services.”

Victoria has over 100 parks with features such as gardens, natural areas, sports and entertainment venues, playgrounds, dog off-leash areas, a skate park, water park and lacrosse box. LEES + Associates, a landscape architecture and planning firm, together with local landscape architecture firm LADR, have been retained to work with the City to develop a Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan to guide improvements to these spaces over the next 25 years. This could include new or upgraded amenities in existing parks, and new parks.

The Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre, on Quadra Street in the North Park neighbourhood, is a valued community gathering place for residents, families and organized groups. HCMA, together with Professional Environment Recreation Consultants (PERC) have been retained to work with the City to conduct the study, which includes a technical analysis and community engagement to assess needs relating to aquatics and recreation. Funding has not yet been identified for future investment in the facility, and financial options will be developed based on community programming needs as part of the financial planning process.

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For More Information:

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