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Opening of Topaz Skate and Bike Parks “Incredibly Exciting” for Community

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria’s newest skate and bike parks are open in Topaz Park. The City of Victoria celebrated the opening on Saturday with a community event, including members of the skateboard and bike community who provided input on the design.

“This is an exciting day for the City and for so many people in our community who have advocated for these skate and bike parks for a long time,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “As a cyclist and skateboarder myself, I understand how important recreation opportunities are for everyone, including people who enjoy an active lifestyle on wheels. Now that the skate and bike parks are open, we invite everyone to come to Topaz Park, explore and have fun!”

The new 6,000 square metre bike park and 3,000 square metre all-wheels skatepark were designed with accessibility and inclusion in mind, with input from technical experts and people with lived experience, including athletes. The surfaces and access points, lighting, and furnishings are all designed to support safe use by visitors of all ages and abilities.

“The opening of the new additions to Topaz Park are incredibly exciting for community members of all ages,” said Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Association Chair, Marina Aitcheson. “The skate and bike park encourage community within the park that was not possible before. Now folks in the neighbourhood have the opportunity to try something new or work on their old skills, all while staying close to home.”

Contractor New Line Skateparks, a world leader in skate and bike park design and construction, collaborated with artist Germaine Koh to include interactive sculptures throughout the parks. The sculptures are inspired by native plants that celebrate energy flows around the site from human movement, natural forces and urban systems.

“This a proud moment for the project team who have built an exceptional recreation experience for the community and delivered the project on budget,” said the City’s Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Thomas Soulliere. “Now that the park areas are open, staff will focus on helping the new greenspaces take root and deliver new recreation programs for residents, especially youth.”

The skatepark has the largest skate bowl on lower Vancouver Island and will be a popular regional destination that can support hosting events and competitions.

The skate and bike parks, along with the ongoing replacement and expansion of the turf sports field, are part of an initial \$10 million investment in improvements guided by the Topaz Park Improvement Plan.

Design work for the next phase of improvements to Topaz Park is planned for 2023 and will include new pickleball courts, ball diamond upgrades and an improved leash-optional dog area.

Attachment: Skateboarders and riders join Mayor Lisa Helps in a celebration roll-through to officially open the new skate and bike parks in Topaz Park.

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For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer
Head of Engagement, City of Victoria
250.858.1061 | beisenhauer@victoria.ca

