Appendix B: Correspondence

This is a summary of the correspondence received:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th># of letters</th>
<th># of petitions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dogs</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks Buildings/ Washrooms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation/Parking</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Areas</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Friendly</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>225 names (2015)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickle ball</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Skills</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>105 on online petition and 190 names on paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ball Hockey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dogs
Regarding Topaz Park
Tuesday May 20th 2017

Dear City of Victoria,
My husband and I have lived in the neighborhood near Topaz Park for over 40 years. It is a good park but our concern is regarding the need for a drastically improved off leash dog area.

We have travelled all across Canada and South Cowichan Community off leash Dog Park in Cobble Hill located in Quarry Nature Park, is by far the best we have seen. Cobble Hill should be contacted for a layout of what an absolutely excellent dog park can be.

Our new off leash area, like Cobble Hill should feature:
A large area, fully fenced and double gated. This would keep dogs contained and safe from cars. Also it would keep them away from children in their play area and away from people who don’t want contact with dogs.
This area should have trees so it is aesthetically pleasing and they would also provide shade.
There should be a well maintained grass area and maybe some gravel area too. There should be benches so elderly and physically challenged people can sit.
There should be a shelter so people can sit out of the rain. Plastic chairs should be
available so they can be moved to sit in the sun or the shade. Of course a water source with a low fountain for dogs would be nice, bags for clean-up and frequently emptied garbage cans on site.

The Dog Area
The dog area should have a sign with the rules of the dog area. (See Cobble Hill rules)
We need a properly maintained entrance accessible for handicapped.
Not a slippery, dangerous, muddy path like we have had resulting in falls.

We hope this is helpful to the City Of Victoria. Maybe we too can have a safe off leash area for everyone to be proud of.

Sincerely, personal information

-----------
From: personal information
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 8:01 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: Topaz Park

As a dog owner for the past 17 years, I have been using Topaz Park to meet my dogs social and physical needs. I don't drive, and even if I did, I find it absurd that people rely on their cars to "walk" their dogs. I actually left a beautiful neighborhood moments from the Breakwater just so I could walk to Topaz with my dogs. We depend on this park and I'm concerned over pending changes.

Dogs need safe places to run around. The main field off Glasgow, which is open for dogs Mon-Fri before 10 and after 5, is almost ideal. It's flat, obstacle free for ball play, a large, open space providing a great vantage for incoming concerns. However, it's not fenced in and one side is all parking lot.

It's the weekends, and any other times the city decides (like 5 mths this past winter, or numerous long weekends like the upcoming Hyland Games), that concerns me the most. During these times, all the dogs are forced into the S/E corner of Topaz. A bumpy area full of spear grass in the summer and mud in the winter. Numerous shrubs are littered with the dangerous debris of our ever growing homeless population. Despite providing 2 outhouses (which I have been told are never used), those shrubs are toilets. I know of dogs who have eaten junkie shit and become quite ill. Then there's the needles. Just last week, a puppy I know was running around with a srynge in her mouth. I managed to retrieve it, and noticed the actual needle part wasn't there. Did she swallow it? Or is it still somewhere in the park awaiting an unsuspecting paw?

This corner of Topaz is considered the "official" dog park, as it is open for off-leash play 24/7. And it's great that such a park exists. there are so few in the CRD for thousands of dogs. But there are several major flaws in this dog park...the homeless and the terrain are but two. Firstly, and foremostly, it is not fenced in. About 10 yrs ago, a fence was put up along the road side and part way up the hill separating the dogs from the playground. But the fence was never completed, so it remains somewhat useless. Dogs
(and balls) are easily able to run into the street due to lack of gates. And the biggest concern is the children in the playground. There is nothing that prevents dogs from running over and knocking a child over, or terrifying them. Nothing preventing a curious toddler, his hand likely full of cheerios, wandering near the off-leash dogs. Most dogs are quite attracted to food. And most kids, if they’re not sipping on a juice box, they at least smell of food. The only picnic table in the entire park, is located just a few feet away from the playground and the off-leash dogs. Ironically, that is where the fence ends...where it is needed the most!

Secondly, screaming, running, unpredictable children and excitable, off-leash playing dogs are not a good mix. Not only is there no fence keeping these two groups apart, there are no signs informing people that they are entering an off-leash dog area. Imagine a young family, excited toddlers in tow, carrying their snacks and plush toys, entering the park at a main corner (Topaz/Glascow). Suddenly, a dozen curious dogs barrel down the hill to greet them. Mayhem ensues. Not everyone likes dogs and having a bunch of them run up to you and your children can be terrifying. I don't have to imagine. I have witnessed such mayhem. And while nobody got hurt (that time!), and everyone was apologetic, the parents would not have cut thru the dog park had they only known...had there been a sign: "YOU ARE ENTERING AN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK".

With the removal of the tennis court last year, a nice, flat area has opened up. Since most of the dog park is either trees and shrubs, or a bumpy, uneven hill, it's difficult and unsafe to play ball with your dog. Extending the fence westward to include the former tennis court, would be the cheapest and easiest plan. Although I know the city never goes for the cheapest and easiest plan! But completing the fence, enclosing that new open area currently being wasted, adding some gates and signs would be the best plan for Topaz Park. You know the old saying, anything worth doing is worth doing well. We were all delighted when we saw a fence going up...and all shocked when work just stopped. With a few simply steps, the dog park at Topaz could be spectacular! Adding some benches that are not on a hill would be nice...a water fountain would be really appreciated too. These ideas would not only please the dog owners, but would make the dog park safer for all park users.

Thanks for listening.

*************

From: personal information
Sent: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: another Topaz concern

Just a few hours after sending you my last email, another incident at Topaz Park has me writing again. This morning about a half dozen dogs ran thru the playground en masse. Toddlers were knocked over...parents and nannies were outraged and food set out for a picnic was devoured. I've urged parents to write to City Hall demanding a fence, although I didn't get to speak to these ones this morning. I avoid baby strollers and leash my dog up as soon as I see one. Strollers are essentially food trucks for dogs and they may as well have a sign on them that says "OPEN FOR LUNCH"!
If dog concerns are not important enough for the city to improve dog parks, than maybe parental concerns are? If the city doesn't want to fence in the dog park, how about fencing in the children's playground and picnic area?? A serious incident is just around the corner.

*************

-----Original Message-----
From: personal information

Hi again…I am a personal information with a hearing guide service dog. By comparison to other off leash parks in the city, Topaz leaves a lot to be desired. For example, in the fall, you pick up all the leaves in the lower(East side) of the off leash area and that leaves only mud from the runoff from the West side. All winter our dogs are exposed to the mud and I for one cannot wash my dog daily. So, either fill in the lower area to cover the mud or open up other parts of the park for off leash purposes when teams are not playing and there is no maintenance happening. 80% of the time, these areas are not being used but we are continually harassed by the Animal Control people under threat of fine if we use these areas…with no one around…go figure! I personally know of a number of people who have left for this reason. The baseball/soccer field in the Southwest Corner of the park is vacant except for weekend use. Why cannot we, responsible dog owners, use that area that is dry and not muddy with close washrooms and parking available. As for damage, which I have not witnessed, the Highland Games do more damage in one weekend than everything else including dogs all year. For every argument I have heard about the current regulations for dog use, I would like to share my views because I don’t believe these regulations have merit.

In addition, more benches and fountains are required for people and dogs in the park. And, having these off leash areas fenced would be helpful. The tennis courts that were taken out were out of place, as per the result of damage incurred. Can we have that area to expand our off leash area? I believe we have the beginning of a off leash area that has potential to be something special. Trusting in your judgement, personal information

Quadra St., Victoria, BC, V8T 4E7

---

Parks Buildings/Washrooms

From: personal information
Sent: Friday, May 19, 2017 7:30 PM
To: Engagement
Subject: for

hi for years we have passed the Topaz park
I have always enjoyed it the past 5 years I live fairly close twice have been in spring and Autumn wash rooms are closed and no where else to go.

thanks elizabeth
Transportation/Parking

From: personal information
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2017 9:10 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Topaz Park improvements

I believe that for convenience and traffic safety, a left turn lane should be added on Finlayson Road (westbound) into the parking lot by the lacrosse box and soccer field. Often there are backups waiting to turn into the lot. There is already a little used centre left turn lane for eastbound Finlayson for the street before Quadra--this could be converted without sacrificing the turn lane at Quadra.

Some additional parking there would also be welcome--it's often jammed at field use transition times, leading people to use the neighbourhoods and/or church lot.

Natural Areas

-----Original Message-----
From: personal information
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 6:55 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: beach Volleyball at Topaz

Subject: Re: News from Hillside-Quadra--NAC meeting Mon June 5th/Topaz Park survey and other news
Date: Sun, 4 Jun 2017 20:40:06 -0700
From: personal information
To: "Hillside Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee" <nag@quadravillagecc.com>

Hello HQNAC,

I can't be involved in a lot of week-by-week review of neighbourhood discussions due to ill health. However, I would like to be involved in the Topaz Park discussions as much as possible.

Here is one of my ideas for Topaz Park development:
In the area where the tennis courts used to be, I would like to see a grove of trees planted, preferably native species, to provide the users of the park with shade in the brutally hot days of summer. "Forests forever" was a phrase once sold to the public to gain their support for political action. Maybe if trees are planted in Topaz Park, the community can have trees in Topaz for many many years into the future.

Here's another of my ideas for Topaz Park development: plant tough, sturdy grass species in the off-leash dog park areas. With the brutal sun of summer and the use by
many dogs, the park grass areas get beaten down and the dog park areas become dust bowls.

I think there is already enough development of Topaz Park: kiddies area, lacrosse area, artificial soccer field, a few ball diamonds and a couple more soccer fields, and one area of treed space which provides shade in summer for pedestrians.

Water Park

From:  
Sent: Friday, June 2, 2017 9:59 AM  
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Follow up to Topaz Park survey

Hello,

I am a Victoria resident living in very close proximity to Topaz Park. Thank you for recent efforts to reach out to community members to gather input for the future of the park. I am putting in an extra vote (via this email!) for a water/splash park for Topaz. The area the tennis courts used to sit on seems like prime territory for this type of feature. I had a look at the map of spray parks in the City of Victoria, and was surprised that the only other ones within city limits are way down by Beacon Hill Park. It would make sense to have another one, and I think it would make Topaz Park even more of a family-friendly environment than it is now. As the parent to two young children, I know for a fact that the parks with splash pads become a draw for families. I would love to see more families utilizing the park.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Multiple Topics

From:  
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 3:35 PM  
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>  
Subject: Topaz Park feedback

Good afternoon. If it’s not too late, I’d like to submit these 2 ideas for the “first round” of your plan for the future use of Topaz Park:

1. Senior-friendly – a tremendous amount of seniors live in close proximity, however, it is difficult to access the park or stroll/wheel around the park. Perhaps consider a few extra entry points (especially along Blanshard where Ross Place, the Wellesley Residence and other seniors reside. With this in mind, perhaps there could be a walking trail for seniors inside the park with benches.
2. Dog off-leash area – in Vancouver, many dog-run areas are enclosed, which suite both pet owners & non-pet owners very well.

Thanks,

personal information

Sports Related

Pickleball

From: personal information
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2017 7:23 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Topaz Park

Suggestions / ideas for Topaz Park:

I will curtail my suggestions to PICKLEBALL only as that is my main focus.
I really appreciate all the outdoor pickleball destinations we presently have in and around Victoria. Most are very well used.
As Topaz is a big area, it would be wonderful to see many pickleball courts in one area. Where the existing courts are restricted to 2 or 3, Topaz has the opportunity to hold ... 12? (in other words many).
As a capital city, a large group of pickleball courts would allow for tournament play, and a capital city should have that possibility.

Pickleball is continuing to be a growing game/sport for people of all ages. It's huge as a matter of fact.
The courts take little space compared to tennis and allows more people to play.
4 pickleball courts go into 1 tennis court and whereas you would be likely to have 2 people playing tennis, you would have 16 people playing pickleball. Good use of space.

Thank you for the opportunity for input. I hope it will be considered.

personal information

*************

-----Original Message-----
From: personal information
Sent: Sunday, May 28, 2017 7:42 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Topaz park improvement.

I would like to suggest dedicated pickleball courts. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America and Victoria has a growing number of players and need more outside facilities for leisure and league play.
Regards personal information
From: [personal information]
Sent: Saturday, May 20, 2017 7:35 AM
To: Engagement
Subject: development of Topaz Park

To whom it may concern.

May I respectfully suggest that any future development of Topaz Park should include the installation of several Pickleball Courts for public use.

For two years now Pickleball has been the fastest growing sport in the whole of America and Canada. One of its main attractions is it is less dynamic than tennis and so it lends itself to all age-groups, including even those with not perfect physical fitness. If you research the subject, you will find that right across North America Tennis courts are being replaced by Pickleball courts as the demand grows rapidly. Victoria lags way behind such progress.

Most courts in Victoria are INDOORS and a quick check at Commonwealth, Cedar Hill and Perkes will show how incredibly popular the courts are and how much income they provide. Unfortunately we have a small number of OUTSIDE Pickleball courts and those that we do have are in almost constant use. The demand far outweighs the provision and that leaves the local community having to travel up island, in particular to Ladysmith, Chemainus, Nanaimo and Nanoose to find venues. The outside courts at Tolmie Park, provided by Saanich, are heavily used, a wonderful attraction to the local community and add to the loveliness of the park area itself.

If a number of courts [6 to 12 would be ideal] were provided at Topaz the opportunities are endless for the tourist, the hosting of tournaments and visitors to Victoria. It is guaranteed these courts would be heavily used. Also, in square footage terms, two Pickleball courts equate to one Tennis court and installation is a simple process.

The damning indictment on our area is that Tennis Courts all over the City lie idle as the community searches out Pickleball courts to utilise.

Regards.

[personal information]
I would like to provide feedback for the Topaz Park Improvement plan.

First of all, I do not live in Victoria, although I live close by in North Oak Bay. Over the years, my husband and I have enjoyed Topaz park, mainly for sports such as soccer and softball. Our children have played in the playground. It is a lovely park, has lots of parking, washrooms and it is very centrally located to all areas. It is one of the few parks that is focussed mainly towards sports, which is nice to have. The City has done a fabulous job of maintaining and upgrading the fields.

Previously, there were tennis courts, however those fell into disrepair and were removed. There are many tennis courts in the city and in many other areas as well, however, there is currently only one park, Tolmie Park in Saanich that has dedicated pickleball courts.

Pickleball has become a very popular sport mainly for seniors/retirees and has also started to make its way into schools as well. The sport is a wonderful way for people of all ages to stay active. It is a smaller court than tennis, the paddle is easy on your arm and inexpensive to buy. Pickleball is also very social and it's a great way to meet new people. These are all things that promote healthy living, especially for the large population of seniors who live in the Victoria area.

The various recreation centres do provide a limited amount of indoor pickleball play, but Victoria, with its mild climate is the perfect place to play pickleball outside all year around. There are tennis courts around the Victoria area that are lined for pickleball which pickleball players have been using, but playing on the smaller dedicated court is how the game was designed. Also, we would like tennis players to be able to play on courts with just tennis lines and find other areas such as Topaz that could accommodate pickleball players.

Our suggested input for Topaz is for at least 4-6 dedicated pickleball courts. It could be a great gathering place for seniors and also a perfect place for school groups and for families who want to enjoy a lovely evening playing a fun game in a park environment.

Thanks for your consideration.

---

Beach Volleyball

From: personal information
Sent: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 9:31 PM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: topaz park improvement plan

I would love to see some beach volleyball courts in the city of victoria!
We will try to attend an open house
Thank you

Victoria
Ball Hockey

From (June 6)
Thank you for hosting the meeting yesterday.

It was very informative and I love having a hand in what happens in that particular park as my family has been using that park for 4 generations now, My grandparents, parents and aunts/uncles who lived on Glasgow for around 5 - 6 decades and My siblings and I as well as my nieces and nephews.

I have personally been playing ball hockey there for over 3 decades along with Soccer for many years.

There was one thing that bothered me a little bit, and that was the pair of gentleman that seemed to want to turn the entire park into a baseball fields. during the meeting I had to migrate away from the one track minds and joined the group next to us who had a great vision of what should be done. And there was a lot less costly alterations in our plan. Which would save money for future upgrades and maintenance of the park.

I am so in love with the park the way it is, but understand some things need upgrading. I would hate to see it change drastically. You will find me at the lacrosse box every single Sunday afternoon(year round) playing ball hockey, and I am always the last guy to leave because I gather any items people left behind and clean up all the garbage on the benches as I like to treat the park with respect as I feel like the park is part of my family. I know for a fact that there is no person that has logged more time playing ball hockey in that box than I have. And I am the reigning Iron man champion of Topaz Hockey only missing 2 weekends both due to Guiness World Record attempts(June 4, 2017 Ladysmith - Worlds largest Ball hockey tournament. / August 2014 Nanaimo - Worlds longest outdoor street hockey marathon (104.44 hours))

Thank you again for listening to all of us "jocks" LOL.

Have a great day and if I can volunteer in any way to help improve the park, I will be there in a heartbeat. 😊

***************

A Thank You!

Thank you all for hosting us and listening to our input. I, and the rest of players at Topaz Hockey, were thrilled to have the opportunity to be heard and have our ideas considered. We sincerely appreciate what the City does to provide facilities for us to be outdoors and active engaging in sports we love! So thank you, thank you, thank you!! Excited to see the concept plans.

Kind regards,

personal information
Soccer

SVICSA Submission to the City of Victoria Parks Plan

The South Vancouver Island Classic Soccer Association is a 28 Year old organization that organizes recreational soccer games for 32 teams in three divisions, 40+, 48+ and 55+ years old. The schedule of 368 games runs from September to April and involves 700+ players aged 40 to 78. In addition there is drop in soccer for players 55+ available every Monday and Friday afternoons year round. A three day end of season tournament attracts teams from the USA, Alberta and other regions of BC. The 2017 tournament schedule attracted 19 guest teams.

As prolific users of recreational facilities in the Victoria area we are gratified to see that the parks department has asked for community input into a development plan. We agree with the Plan Goals and are especially pleased to see the mention of partnerships as our experience of working with the parks staff on the development of the Finlayson turf field was a very positive one and hope to be able cooperate on future projects.

With regards to the 'What We Heard ' section of the plan we would like to add that consideration be given to developing facilities that will attract sports tourism to the plan. This would contribute to the economic health of the city.

To this end we would like to examine the possibility of Topaz Park being modified to accommodate six soccer fields and still maintain its function as a multisport venue. Maybe, with the cooperation of SD 61, the grounds of SJ Willis could be included in the plan. Our league is prepared to work with city staff and other users on these concepts and is in a position to commit modest resources to agreed improvements.

Best Regards,

Peter Denby
SVICSA Development Chair

June 3rd, 2017

**************

Our soccer membership would be very interested in seeing another turf field added to the parks at Topaz.

Whether it be Glasgow or Blanshard getting turfed, or making Finlayson turf into 2 turf fields.

The existing Finlayson turf is too big.

Vince Greco
VISL President

www.visl.org

personal information

vancouver_island_soccer_league

**************

Hi Melinda
So I was informed today that Victoria United (A unified group of the three major soccer associations on the Lower Island) that I must attend their meeting same night. I really wanted to attend your meeting as i have been approached by many of the athletes that use the finlayson turf. They have asked me to ask is there anyway the path to the washrooms can be lit up better as even with the buddy system it is dark and difficult for the participants to track people going up to use the washrooms. As you know the turf is mainly used at night during the winter. Up to 7:00pm a lot of youth use it weeknights and then the adults go to ten. Friday nights is women's night on the turf all winter long. The washrooms are quite the distance from the turf so a bit more lighting would be ideal. If you could pass this info on for the LIWSA I would be very appreciative. Sorry i had to bail as I really wanted to go!

Regards
Casey Tepper
President LIWSA
president@liwsa.com

-----Original Message-----
From: personal information
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2017 9:39 AM
To: Engagement <engage@victoria.ca>
Subject: Hi

Please don't forget to count the 2015 petition and signatures to restore the tennis courts at Topaz park. There were 225 signatures handed in at the time, and then they were misplaced somehow by city hall.

A photocopy was resubmitted when the tennis courts started to get taken down by the city...please do not let these votes get lost again. Thanks so much....Tennis is a great sport for all, from seniors, to families, teens and youngsters.....it is a sport that people can play their whole lives with little cost... Please let me know if you have the petition sheets, I would be happy to provide another copy if needed. Thanks, personal information

Bike Park

Mayor Lisa Helps and Councillors, City Hall
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

personal information

Victoria, BC

RE: Topaz Park Improvement Plan,
Dear Madame Mayor and Councillors,

I understand the City is working on the Topaz Park Improvement Plan and the Parks Master Plan this year.

I live in the Fairfield neighbourhood and I would like to see more amenities at Topaz Park. I have lived in Victoria for 20 years. I visit the park occasionally, but would visit it more if there were bike and skateboard facilities there.

I am writing to you to support Yvonne Mendel and her initiative for a kids’ pump track and a 3 single track trails at Topaz Park. I would like a pump track and some trails to help local children develop biking skills. Places for free recreation are just as important as reserved spaces such as soccer fields, hockey rinks and swimming pools.

Quadra Village is a growing hub for young families. As you know, Cecelia Ravine Bike Park is a well-used park in the Burnside Gorge neighbourhood. Topaz would be an excellent location for second, larger bike park due to its proximity to Quadra Village, Quadra School, Cloverdale Traditional School, SJ Willis, affordable housing, Mayfair Mall and downtown.

A bike park at Topaz would be separated from Cecelia Park by a major transportation corridor. Other bike parks in the Greater Victoria area include Goldstream, Hartland Mountain Bike Park and North Saanich Bike Park. These parks are not easily accessible for inner city youth or families that don’t drive.

Other amenities that would complement the bike park would be: a skatepark, bike wash and bike repair stand with a pump. A coin operated patch dispenser to repair a punctured tube would help too.

Sincerely,

Craig Gillett
Trails Director
South Island Mountain Bike Society

Bike Park Petition: Yvonne Mendel

Hi Melinda,

Thanks for contacting me. This is the most inspiring project I've ever worked on. I'm very excited and happy to have met so many caring neighbours and citizens.

I would have loved to present this information to you in person but I'm away from Victoria. I have learned so much from the public and feedback from Councillors Isitt and Loveday.

Since the end of May, I have attended 7 community events and presented at City Council (May 11). The most significant event was Quadra Village Day.
I have collected 105 names through the online petition and about 190 names on paper (and building).

I've put the online signatures and comments and petition text here: Dropbox petition folder
I have added Alia, Leigh, you, Julie and Gary so everyone should be able to access the files in one location.

When I talked to my neighbours, friends, and members of the public, I showed them my two proposed bike park maps (one is the overview of the entire Topaz Park and the other is a zoomed in view of my design with a legend and trail features like jumps, berms). People were very receptive and had tons of positive comments.

It’s paramount that all ages and all abilities of users should be able to enjoy the trails and the all-wheels park. If the features are too hard, there should be a go around trail. Ideally, young children under the age of 7 should find the park entertaining. Teenagers and adults should find the harder elements exciting too.

I strongly support keeping the natural areas like trees and bush in the off-leash dog area “F”. The shady areas make the park attractive during hot summer days. If the trails are made from dirt, the trees maintain humidity and less jump/feature maintenance is required. Areas exposed to full sun degrade faster and are harder to maintain.

I’m very concerned about long term planning of upkeep of a bike park. I’m hearing from trail builders personal information that regular maintenance is of paramount importance in the long term. (I’m hearing from families that Cecelia Ravine needs the bumps to be built back up but I haven’t been able to go by to take photos personally.)

According to personal information some bush trimming in Topaz Park would likely be useful for opening sight lines so that dog walkers that want to walk the bike trails wouldn’t be surprised by bikers around blind corners. Some citizens suggested dogs being fenced out of the park but I don’t think that we need to jump to that right away, unless dog attacks are already an issue I’m not aware of. I would like the bike park to be as inclusive to all users and all abilities as possible.

A multi-use trail around the bike park area as a return loop was suggested by many. The 2 Councillors I spoke to thought a low-key approach to design would help public perception. I removed 1 trail and a multi-use return trail from my initial design to make the bike park more palatable to neighbours and dog walkers. (An existing trail is visible in the aerial photos and could be improved and expanded.)

I'm hoping your team can build on my rough idea of a bike park at Topaz Park and really develop it into something bigger and better. My design was meant to create discussion and inspire the wider community. The video of the Leavenworth, WA pump track is amazing and would be a great asset to the neighbourhood.

In regards to me providing you the names and contact info from the paper petitions, I'm currently on vacation in northern BC for a few more weeks. The petition is in Victoria but I will scan it to you before July 10.
In other related new, my first free biking clinic at Topaz for children aged 3 to 6 years is July 15. I'm still waiting to hear back about My Great Neighbourhood Grant Program. I will be organizing 3 more biking clinics for young children, taking place on weekends in mid-August, mid-September and mid-October. Participants will receive free lunch, lots of safety biking swag and more. Organized through Facebook.

Thanks for your work on this! Sorry for information overload!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Mendel

*full title: President of Friends of the North Saanich Mountain Bike Park Society

**past president of South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS), cartographer, trail builder, author of "Family Trails" and "Mountain Bike Vancouver Island"
Goal: To build an asphalt bicycle pump track at Topaz park in Victoria BC.

Description:

A bicycle pump track/park is a continuous loop of berms and “rollers” (smooth mounds) that the cyclists ride through without pedaling. The name “pump track” comes from the pumping motion used by rider’s upper and lower body as they ride around the track. The purpose of a pump track is to use this pumping motion to maintain speed around the track without pedaling. Pump tracks can be ridden by cyclists of all ages and skill levels. No special kinds of bicycles are needed to ride on a pump track - BMX bikes, mountain bikes, kids bikes - even scooters and skateboards can be used on an asphalt pump track. It can be used to increase bike handling skills for younger riders, provide an effective workout for others, and bike pump tracks have been used for cross training for other sports like skiing, snowboarding, and track sports. The same pump track course can be used for a seasoned expert rider and a first-time rider on a run-bike.

Benefits:

- An asphalt bike park at Topaz park would establish a new type of recreation facility in Victoria.
- It would provide cyclists, skateboarders, and scooter riders with a facility in a part of Victoria that does not currently have one.
- Unlike other bike parks it can be used by a wide variety of users, not just mountain bikers.
- Unlike skate parks, it would draw a wider variety of users than just skateboarders or BMX riders.
- The cost to build is significantly less than a skate park and the ongoing maintenance is limited as jumps and berms do not need ongoing re-shaping and sculpting as is the case with the dirt bike park at Cecilia Ravine Park.
- Unlike the bike park at Cecilia Ravine park, Asphalt bike parks like skate parks are well used because they attract a wider variety of users.
- These types of facilities are a good investment because they encourage active living among a wide variety of users.

Estimated cost:

- Original estimates for the Nanaimo pump track projected the cost to be $42,000 to build the pump track portion and the overall cost of the Stevie Smith Bike Park coast nearly $275,000.
- The City of Nanaimo contributed $200,000 to the Stevie Smith Bike Park project and donated the land and committed to maintain the park in the future.
- Exact cost to build is not publicly available, but it appears that an asphalt pump track could be built for at Topaz park for $50,000-$60,000.
- The recent upgrades to Vic West Skate Park would have likely cost more than building a complete pump track. The final cost of the pump track construction in Nanaimo needs to be confirmed.
- The Nanaimo Pump Track Plan includes costing: [https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR161118FundingApprovedCommunityBikePark/Attachments/stevie-smith-community-bike-park-information.pdf](https://www.nanaimo.ca/NewsReleases/NR161118FundingApprovedCommunityBikePark/Attachments/stevie-smith-community-bike-park-information.pdf)

Contractors:

- The Nanaimo bike park was constructed by Alpine Bike Parks and appears to have used a Vellosolutions design.
- Contact Alpine Bike Parks at [http://alpinebikeparks.com/contact.php](http://alpinebikeparks.com/contact.php)
Contact Velosolutions Annie Methot, 350 côte Saint-Anne, Saint-Anne de Beaupré Quebec, Canada, G0A 3C0, +1 (581) 307-3321

Examples:
Nanaimo Pump Track:

Nanaimo Stevie Smith Bike Park asphalt pump track:
Leavenworth, Washington Asphalt Pump Track:

For more information contact me. James Harada-Down at james.haradadown@gmail.com or call 250-661-9749
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/21/2017</td>
<td>Great idea. Great location for a bike park for kids of all ages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/22/2017</td>
<td>I think this would be a great addition to the neighbourhood and respect for our children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/22/2017</td>
<td>I have kids, we live close, we'd love the heck out of a bike park at Topaz!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/22/2017</td>
<td>I love the idea of kids...and adults...getting back to the basics. Bike riding = freedom, fun and fitness, 3 things kids are short on in urban areas! Say Yes to a bike park!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/22/2017</td>
<td>Great idea, and one that would add a lot of value to the city. Great way for kids and families to get outside, and learn some new skills in a safe place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/23/2017</td>
<td>I spoke with Yvonne, and have seen first hand the enthusiasm of other parents who hear these plans to create spaces for children to experience the outdoors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/23/2017</td>
<td>Victoria needs more areas like this to help keep kids active and give them more incentive to be outside instead of on a computer game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/23/2017</td>
<td>My kids would just love this.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/24/2017</td>
<td>Vic is a beautiful city. I do not want to see it turn into a total concrete jungle!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/24/2017</td>
<td>My children need this to have a healthy understanding of recreating in nature.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5/24/2017</td>
<td>I agree! We need a kid friendly bike park in town!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/24/2017</td>
<td>Kids need fun and safe places for play and to learn to ride bikes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25/2017</td>
<td>I’m signing because I think a bike park will be a great addition to what Victoria can offers to kids regarding activities. There are skateboard parks, but a dedicated bike park will be fantastic.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25/2017</td>
<td>This would clearly help give kids all over the city another place to ride outside and have fun without being in traffic or riding on trails that are shared or even in odd corners of parks and other shared spaces that were not planned or intended for bikes.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/26/2017</td>
<td>We need more natural environments used for kids to be physically active.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>Kids need to be able to play outside in a safe environment. This park is close to our residence so it’s a great fit for our family!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>I would like biking facilities for kids closer to town.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>I’m signing because I’d love for my kids to have more opportunities to practice their bike skills and see other kids biking, to inspire them as well.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>I was a past resident of Victoria, and believe this is a wonderful idea!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>I believe we need to have as many parks and places for families and all people to use.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>I live in the neighbourhood and like to see children able to enjoy safe outdoor spaces.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/30/2017</td>
<td>Victoria could really use this.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/31/2017</td>
<td>My daughter would love this.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6/1/2017  | … this would be a GREAT use of the land! To help encourage youth and adults alike to learn a new skill or just have fun (if they can’t get to the Dump one day). I also think having this land re- appropriated with an active living activity is good for all, but will perhaps dissuade some of the current, less-than-savoury use of the bush area. Make it happen, folks! :)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/3/2017</td>
<td>My two year old started riding a strider bike at 1 1/2 and a peddle bike at 2 1/2 and we struggle to find safe, fun and challenging areas to ride. North Saanich is one of our favorites, but unfortunately it's typically only open 3 1/2 months a year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4/2017</td>
<td>Viestablishing biking as a fun a important part of commuting starts young. Our kids need safe places to wander safely on their bikes and this underused area is the perfect location.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/4/2017</td>
<td>This will provide another opportunity for families to get outside together be active throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/5/2017</td>
<td>I lived in Victoria for seven years, two of those in the area nearby the park. I used to take the kids from the family that I worked for at the time to that park. I believe it is a lovely area but it can be divided into multiple different activities. I do support the improvement of the park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/8/2017</td>
<td>I believe in having multi use greenspace for my kid to play.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/10/2017</td>
<td>There are so few places or opportunities few young children to experience trail riding and develop skills in a safe environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11/2017</td>
<td>I would love another bike park for little kids in Victoria!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/11/2017</td>
<td>Building strong infrastructure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26/2017</td>
<td>My kids would love a bike park close to downtown. That space has been unused for years and we have so many tennis courts and outdoor gyms. Thanks!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26/2017</td>
<td>My 6yo boy loves to ride, and Topaz Park is near our home. The last time we played there, it was largely empty and I had the pleasure of watching two drug deals go down in broad daylight as I played with my then 4yo. I feel kids and their families deserve better. Making Topaz Park more of a community hub will serve those who choose to participate as well as those who don’t. Thank you for your consideration!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26/2017</td>
<td>It’s important for our community to be involved in creating outdoor spaces for our children! Way to go Yvonne! This is amazing!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/26/2017</td>
<td>I would love to see this space become a family friendly gathering spot where kids can be active and healthy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27/2017</td>
<td>Kids &amp; families need places to go where they can be active &amp; enjoy the outdoors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/29/2017</td>
<td>Kids and adults need more places to ride and socialize. A velosolutions asphalt pumptrack would used all seasons...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/20/2017</td>
<td>What a wonderful id a that will encourage all ages to get outside and get active!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/20/2017</td>
<td>Having more public space to bring together community, health and the outdoors is so incredibly important. Victoria has made strides to increase biking access overall, I feel this is another important step.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7/2017</td>
<td>If we want a bike culture to address congestion, injury, and health we need to provide places for kids to play on bikes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/7/2017</td>
<td>We need safe and accessible locations to introduce youngsters to cycling. Think of it as a playground for kids with bikes. Transforming transport starts with these sorts of facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8/2017</td>
<td>The importance of getting children out behind their screens and on their bikes is so massively important. To offer safe, fun and family friendly trails throughout the Victoria region will only help to encourage families and kids to get out there and engage with nature, friends and adventure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>Biking matters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>Convincing your parents to Drive to Hartland as a kid is tiring for both parties. Build close proximity parks for more enjoyable days!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>We need more accessible bike parks!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3/12/2018 | I think it's important for little ones to challenge themselves in little ways to then have the confidence for bigger challenges as they get older and just being outside! 🚴
<p>| 3/12/2018 | Cycling is a great activity to promote healthy lifestyles and engagement with nature. An accessible bike park for youth in Victoria would be great! |
| 3/12/2018 | A local and safe environment for our youth to play and develop bike skills is an excellent fit for our city |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>We need more attractive areas for kids to get outside and do exciting things. Instilling healthy and fun activities in kids when they are young will stick with them as they get older.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>Kids on bikes ! yes !!!!!!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>Kids need safe places to ride their bikes and keep physically active. Riding builds self-confidence and helps our children learn to be independent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>Biking is a healthy outdoor activity that anyone can take part in. Make it accessible and the park will be used. Cheers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12/2018</td>
<td>I believe in the cause for better places for kids and adults to ride bikes!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16/2018</td>
<td>Biking should be accessible to all ages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>