

Post-it Note Comments

Maffeo Sutton Park Open House

September 14 and 17, 2015

These comments were attached to Open House posters as a community dialogue about the options presented (1, 2 and 3) at open houses.

The results/themes are in no particular order and are verbatim from the sticky-notes.

Amphitheatre/ Lions Pavilion/ Event Space Comments:

- Performance space (monumental) facing Newcastle.
- Theatre/Amphitheatre is great here.
- Amphitheatre! Need performance venue, 3,000-4,000.
- Improve Pavilion for music. Sound is horrible – back is best sound.
- Use slope as amphitheatre.
- Better Utilization of Spirit Square.
- Use hills as terracing to new amphitheatre.
- Lions Pavilion – Summer wood floor for dancing.
- Bigger music stage and more evening music, etc.

Public Art/Artisan Comments:

- Love the art in the park.
- Hate the temporary art this year.
- Galleria for artisans (adjudicated) to sell connected to restaurant/washrooms.
- Area for artisans to work in the park. (paint & carve).
- More vendors and art in the park.
- No buskers on Port Authority Land.
- Existing Newcastle Ferry Dock off of Maffeo Sutton Park – Make this structure a prominent structure reflecting the First Nations. I.e: Bears, carvings, etc. (Like some of those casino structures)
- Nanaimo Bar Statue
- Love the public art
- Fresh murals on walkway
- Shelter for carvers and artisans
- Work with school to do art murals on seawall
- Rock balancing garden – (fenced in area for observations)

Bicycles/ Skate Boards/ Roller Blade Comments:

- Great park! Bike rental kiosk for visitors?
- Bike rental and kayak rental.
- 19- Improve bike connection downtown and BC Ferries (Gabriola).
- Enforce bike signs.
- Reduce width of bike lanes
- Widen bike pathway
- Repaint the bike trails – make paths clearer
- More designated bicycle parking – on outskirts of car park area? Or by pathway junctions that permit bikes.
- Adapt/Modify/Enhance crab dock with fishing pier.
- More access to water/ ocean.
- 5 - Yes more access to ocean and opportunities for wild life to flourish.
- More fishing and crabbing piers.
- More wharfs like the one in Campbell River. So many families on the wharf, which is great to see, but it gets crowded though.
- More sheltered docks off crab docks.
- More access to the water.
- Safety: Some sort of barrier along sea walk so children won't fall down rocks.
- Barrier on seawall to prevent children from falling
- Improve natural ecology along water edge
- Bring back fish boats
- Stop shellfish harvesting from Queen E. Promenade at low tide
- M20 - More room for walking/biking.
- Designated bike path through the park.
- No skateboards anywhere!
- Priority to walkers. NOT dogs, NOT bikers, NOT roller skates/skateboards.
- No skateboards on walkways.
- Include Bike Friendly paths.
- Skateboard park is desired.
- No bikes in park – build bike routes to connect add clear signage for routes
- ore info about tidal pools
- Queen Elizabeth line split isn't working – bikes have too much space, pedestrians need more

Canoe/ Kayak/ Non-Motorized Boats Comments:

- Canoe/ kayak access or improvements along Newcastle Ave.
- Improve access from walkway to Newcastle Ave – “RAMP”.
- Multi-use options for docks – kayaks, dinghy's, SUP's (non-motorized)

- Boat launch - canoe/ kayak.
- Kayak rental kiosk.
- Kayak Launch spot in park.
- Kayak/canoe launch is very desirable!
- Boat rentals out of Swy-a-lana Lagoon – or replace/ expand washroom to include boat rental/kayaks.
- Add kayak/ non-motorized boat launch
- Kayak /paddle boards launch

Dog Comments:

- Dogs are not people, less dogs please!
- Too many dogs!!
- Allow dog's on-leash only on walkway – more bag stations.
- Dog walking on leash.
- Enforce dogs, leash, and poop rules – I like dogs!!
- Off leash area for dogs!
- No off-leash area for dogs, unless completely fenced in!
- Dog park is desired!
- Dog swimming
- Doggie bags in main area at entrance
- More dog stations
- Dog lane on side of trail – like in West Vancouver
- More dog stations and disposal
- Maintain the dog friendly environment and consider adding off-leash areas.
- Make park and beach dog off-leash's area.

Fitness/ Sport Comments:

- Adult outdoor exercise machines. As in Courtenay – a must! Or at another park.
- Volleyball or badminton nets in grass area.
- Turn cul-de-sac parking into green space and picnic areas.
- I love the idea of an outdoor gym are – like we see in Mexico! (It's used there!)
- Outdoor gym

Food Truck/ Dining Comments:

- Don't add more food trucks; support restaurant integrated into park.
- Healthier food choices in the park.
- Would like healthier food choices in the park.
- Tim Horton's.

- Move food cart so eating has a view.
- More food trucks. Real food – not just hot dogs and fries.
- Food trucks – Coffee ect. Open at @ 8:30am-9:00am would be great.
- A variety of food trucks and more benches. No Smoking.
- A restaurant with an ocean view!
- Put a beautiful seafood restaurant and gardens by seashore.
- Food Trucks. Yummy!!!
- No restaurants, only food trucks.
- More food trucks.
- Better food in the food trucks.
- More food truck options near Pavilion.
- Permanent Food Trucks.
- More vendors desired.
- Quality food trucks.
- Food trucks – salads, veggies, fruit, and other ones too
- Outdoor dining
- More waterfront dining
- Food trucks!
- Outdoor dining – restaurant

Love the Park Comments:

- Enjoy the park the way it is – Love it; use it almost daily.
- Great park; leave it alone, just keep it well maintained.
- Leave the park as is please.
- Beauty of this park is that it's so wheelchair accessible.
- No Improvements needed.
- Love this place!
- Love the urban sandy beach
- Love the park the way it is, but would like swimming beach, better playground and better food trucks

Maffeo Sutton Park – Newcastle Island Comments:

- Bridge to Newcastle, or expansion of trail to Departure Bay.
- Glass Tube to Newcastle or other island, YES!!
- Yes, yes for Glass tube to Newcastle Island!
- Glass tube to Newcastle Island! (Three people commented: “Love this!!!”, “Cool Idea”, and “Win Win!”).
- Have this park and Newcastle Island as a park for Nanaimo City.

Ocean/ Waterfront Comments:

- Adapt/Modify/Enhance crab dock with fishing pier.
- More access to water/ ocean.
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- More fishing and crabbing piers.
- More wharfs like the one in Campbell River. So many families on the wharf, which is great to see, but it gets crowded though.
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- More info about tidal pools

Parking Comments:

- I like the parkade.
- Increase amount of handicap parking.
- More and closer handicap parking.
- Maximize parking with parkade – no larger a foot print.
- Need parking close or inside park. NOT downtown.
- Minimal parking, more alternative transportation.
- Handicap stalls near the Plaza entrance.
- Parking is cut in half. Could the new parking be tiered parkade?
- Limit parking lot to 21 ft. Length for vehicles.
- Definitely need a parkade 2-3 level by area at entrance parking now.
- I like parking near the entrance. Can it be a tiered parking site? (more than one level parkade)
- Lots of overnight camping in park at night right now (mostly in cars) not being enforced!!!
- Better communication to public during events regarding parking.
- 12&13 – This is premium location and wasted on parking. Minimize parking and maximize alternate modes of transportation.
- Love free parking
- Free overnight parking starts October 2 at 3:00pm – No enforcement
- Always have it as free parking.
- Don't reduce parking!
- Don't reduce parking spaces (i.e. for youth area)

- Better use of parking
- Ensure public is aware of additional parking behind H.J. Hotel (needs to be enhanced)
- Partner with private parking lots to have weekend parking during events. (By Courthouse, ect.)
- Free parking 24-7 😊

Park Maintenance Comments:

- Overhead lighting needs to be maintained.
- Safety Issue: Continue the railing from the Southeast corner of the Lion's Bridge where there is a steep cliff.
- Widen and repair sidewalks – too many puddles in the winter.
- Up keep of painting on boulevards.

Plants, Flowers, and Tree Comments:

- Flower gardens and fountains.
- Pruning of low branches on pathways (damage and vandalism).
- Limb trees up.
- Maintain view with any new plantings.
- 15- How about planting some large Douglas Firs?
- 6- Do not plant along shorelines to block views as walking.
- Nanaimo needs more beauty and gardens.
- Clean out the IUY on the trees – it kills the trees!
- Please trim cherry trees between the Pacifica and the “Woodcarvers Deck”!
- Shade trees along Queen Elizabeth Promenade and walkway
- Keep shade trees by Lion's Pavilion and Newcastle ferry area
- Lions Bridge – vegetation clean up
- Renew plants near Hilton Hotel site
- More trees, especially Evergreen
- Keep trees
- Need to have a ‘Welcome to Nanaimo’ in flower garden like Victoria does
- More shade trees along Queen E. Promenade – too sunny X3
- More Evergreen trees
- Corridor at Maffeo Sutton needs to be beautified

Playground Comments:

- I like existing playground location best.
- Playground is used lots and should remain central. Green space if no event (most of year) is empty... doesn't need expanding.

- Water park for kids.
- Like the park the way it is – new playground features would be nice.
- New playground would be great.
- Different location for children’s park – waterfront view.
- Get a playground for families like Parksville – go and look at the way they have it
- Improve kids play area – wood chips
- H2O park features
- Playground surface – no gravel, woodchips, ect. Please soft rubbery surface!!
- Playground needs rebuild, move it closer to washrooms
- Playground too big – move it to smaller footprint. Love it near Lions Pavilion

Policing, Bylaw Enforcement & Smoking Comments:

- More police and bylaw presence – it has been really bad over past 6 months.
- Dog, bike, and smoking rules are not being enforced. Where is Bylaws?
- No off-leash – Enforce it!
- Lack of bylaw presence.
- More supervision of dogs and clean up.
- Bylaw enforcement after evening hours.
- Enforcement of no smoking and no bikes.
- Enforce leash bylaws and only allow short leashes – no retractable leashes (this is to prevent untrained dogs from harassing other people and other dogs.
- Lack of bylaw enforcement in regards to retractable dog leashes.
- Bylaw enforcement in regards to poop pick up, off leash dogs, bike riding, smoking, and campers/sleepers.
- No Smoking.
- Designated smoking area in park with shelter.
- No smoking anywhere on park property
- No Smoking on Port Authority Land.
- More police presence.
- Enforce business license and smoking rules in park.

Seating Comments:

- More seats facing the river to watch fishermen, birds, ect.
- More benches.
- Bleachers for watching fireworks.
- More benches (Not metal – cold in the winter)
- Not all benches are comfy. Two slats are not comfy and they are installed too high.
- Add picnic tables by playground green space.
- More benches by sewage pump station – especially for disabled walkers, ect.

- More picnic tables on empty field
- More benches to look at water
- Built-in beach chairs

Signage comments:

- Clearer cycling signage.
- No-dog signs? Queen E. Park start of walkway.
- Bike signage is poor on Queen E. Promenade.
- Better signs regarding no cycling OR designated path after Lions Bridge.
- Better signage and more law enforcement regarding bikes.
- More signs! – No Smoking.
- More non-smoking signs along walkway.
- Clear cycle routes on perimeter trail around the park – legal and formalized.
- Easily readable signs to keep bikes off the waterfront walkway.
- Paint WAY more pedestrian and cyclist signs on walkway – walkers are all over the cyclists’ side of the line!!
- Clarity – bike routes / pedestrian routes
- More ‘No Smoking’ signs – 1 in Lions Pavilion please
- Better signage – no bikes, roller blades, and skateboards in park
- Education about solid waste (signage) – how long garbage and butts take to decompose
- Better signage – no bikes
- Sign by Stewart Avenue to indicate bike routes to bypass park and go South to downtown
- Have signs saying ‘Welcome to Nanaimo’ (Bigger one)
- Improve park entrance and have signage to park!
- Distance markers along walkway

Snuneymuxw First Nation Comments:

- Use SFN land for sprung dance floor/ restaurant.
- The SFN has their section of the park, where is ours?
- No SFN, this should be a Nanaimo Park.
- No SFN, NO, NO, NO! This is a Nanaimo Park.

Swy-A-Lana Lagoon Comments:

- More beach and naturalization.
- Better regular clean up of Lagoon for children to swim. Ex: Waterfalls broken and full of algae. Always too much debris.

- Commercial development specifically food service with a view – not fast food, upscale – over Lagoon?
- Bigger beach at Swy-a-lana Lagoon. Great if it's cleaned DAILY of debris in summer and fix waterfalls/ clean algae.
- Bridge for viewing Lagoon.
- Option #2. 9 Best option for Lagoon.
- In favour of increased beach access and improved swimming.
- 9- Naturalize shoreline and lagoon to maximize shoreline experience.
- Please have the sand in the swimming area raked and cleaned up daily!
- Beautiful fountain in the lagoon.
- Clean up the Lagoon more often.
- Turn lagoon into pool
- Keep existing sea water “renewal” structure for Swy-a-lana Lagoon
- Lagoon improvements for swimming
- Clean up beach so that kids will use it and swim in Lagoon

Washrooms/ Shower Facility Comments:

- Build new washrooms around Lions Pavilion with storage integrated.
- More washrooms.
- Bigger/more bathrooms (toilets).
- Please have outdoor shower.
- Better washrooms and restaurant.
- Please renovate the washrooms!
- Improved washrooms are a priority!
- Better washrooms
- Yes – we need a new and expanded and upgraded amenities building. i.e. washrooms, and perhaps change rooms?
- Better washrooms in park and permanent washrooms by yacht club
- Change room shower for beach user
- Showers to wash off after swimming

MISC Comments:

- Dancing floor for 500 people.
- Use concrete wall by Bistro as a fundraising wall.
- BBQ Pits.
- Terrace Georgia Park.
- Have meeting place landmark clock downtown. By Hilton? Top of Hilton?
- 11X17 Schematic map for booking groups. Legend for size.
- Move (BUY) the funeral home please.

- 22 Love Habitat Island ☺
- What is “Habitat Island”? More details please.
- Get rid of or move funeral home.
- General access improvements from Howard Johnson Hotel.
- Expand park to Departure Bay.
- Priority to public events, not fenced off, ticketed events (i.e. Blues Fest).
- 20 – for viewing of river life activity.
- Water fountains and water bottle fillers.
- More electrical connections.
- Ferris wheel
- 6- Make connection with Millstone Estuary and Bowen Park fish by-pass.
- Can traffic noise be reduced?
- Keep park open and accessible to park for walkers – even during special events!
- Three hour bookings only.
- No more high rises.
- Have world class pier with covered end.
- Overpass walkway?
- Beach for swimming and more sand.
- Outdoor Christmas market.
- Need tourist info center
- Electric BBQ’s attached to picnic tables
- space (14/6 foot split)
- More garbage cans
- Wedding chapel
- Bring back Civic Arena
- Better name
- Keep park open – no more permanent structures except a restaurant and washrooms
- Use Port Theatre for more park events/ theatre. Use McGregor Park too
- Don’t commercialize too much