

# Parks, Recreation & Culture Newsletter



## Maffeo Sutton Park: Harbourfront Jewel

Nanaimo's premier waterfront park has had a facelift. Many of the City's major events are held in the park over the course of the summer, so while you are enjoying the events take note of the enhanced park features.

**Improvements include:** enhanced park access, improved routes for pedestrians, cyclists, the physically challenged, as well as service and emergency vehicles and the Spirit Square gathering space.

In February 2008, Nanaimo was awarded a grant from the provincial government for \$500,000 for the development of a 'Spirit Square'. The square provides a large multi purpose plaza for special event use. The new structure is the focus of the plaza and features interpretive information about the history of the site and downtown.

During recent construction, underground services were installed, which will assist in future developments of the park. Detailed information about

the entire project and features to look for is available at the [City of Nanaimo website](http://www.cityofnanaimo.ca).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mothers Unite Garage Sale**  
June 13, 9 am-1 pm at Beban Social Centre - Admission \$1

**Canada Day Celebration**  
July 31, 11 am start at Maffeo Sutton Park

**Lifeguards at Westwood Lake**  
July 2-August 31 (weather permitting)

**Westwood Lake Day**  
July 25, 12-4 pm

**Family Fun Night at Deverill Square Park**  
August 6, 6-8 pm

**Fall/Winter Registration Begins**  
August 19

## DID YOU KNOW...

Nanaimo will be the second community to host the Olympic Torch Relay Celebration on Saturday, October 31. The event will be held at Maffeo Sutton Park, and everyone is invited. Come and share the excitement of the Olympic games here in Nanaimo!





Disc Golf - free fun at Bowen Park!

## FREE FUN!

Looking for some free fun in the sun this summer? Here is a list of some of our favourites:

1. Day at Bowen Park- walk the Millstone River, enjoy the tweekie swim at the Kin Pool, enjoy a picnic and feed the ducks (feed available at reception).
2. With 130 kilometers of trails in town, why not dust off of those bikes, plan out a route and take an afternoon roll?
3. Bowen Park Disc Golf Course- borrow discs from Bowen Park reception desk Monday to Friday 8:45 am-4:30 pm.
4. Water Parks- June to September Departure Bay Kiwanis Water Park, Deverill Square Water Park, Harewood Mining Community Water Park
5. Concerts in the Park- Enjoy live local music at the band shell in Maffeo Sutton Park from 6:30-8 pm.

## “Gardens for Good” - A Community Partnership

City of Nanaimo Parks have partnered with Nanaimo Community Gardens and Nanaimo Foodshare Society to plant two garden plots. The gardens will be harvested through the Community Garden's gleaning program and distributed to clients of the Food Share Society.

“This is a great way for our staff to be able to share their vast knowledge and give back in meaningful way,” says Gail Pasaluko, Parks Horticulture Supervisor. “We want to encourage residents to ask questions. The staff are happy to be

ambassadors within the community. They have great skills to share.”

There will be a series of educational events held at the gardens. Nanaimo Community Gardens is in the process of hiring an educator who will also work with our demonstration sites. One garden will be located at City Hall and the second will be in the breezeway between the Beban Social Centre and Frank Crane Arena. Residents are invited to visit the gardens at any time.

## Hug Your Park & Your Neighbours

Do you have some time to spend helping to protect and maintain your favourite City Park? If so, check out the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) Program. Projects taken on by VIP participants include neighbourhood playground development, invasive plant removal, beautification and boulevard tree planting, park warden duties, gate keepers, and park naturalists. These people make many of our neighbourhood play lots possible, parks accessible and neighbourhoods more attractive.

If you want to throw a summer block party this year be sure to find out about the department's Neighbourhood Block Party planning program. We know neighbourhoods enjoy hosting block parties as a great way to meet neighbours and/or to celebrate neighbourhood volunteer efforts and we want to help make that happen. The parties can be held on part of a park, street or cul-de-sac.

For information on the VIP program and block party kits, call 250-756-5200.



Volunteers in Parks removing invasive species from Nanaimo parks.

## Next newsletter available in August!

## CONTACT US

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