

VIP Link

Newsletter

The Volunteers in Park Program (VIP) is a public participation program designed to bring the ideas and efforts of volunteers together with the City of Nanaimo, Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture in order to create, develop and improve our parks and open spaces. This program utilizes the talents, skills and energy of volunteers to develop, maintain and beautify Nanaimo's many new and old open spaces, parks and trails.

- NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT
- INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL
- BEAUTIFICATION & BOULEVARD TREE PLANTING
- PARK WARDENS
- GATEKEEPERS
- PARK NATURALISTS

If you are receiving this newsletter, you must be volunteering or connected to the City of Nanaimo's Volunteers in Parks program. The intent of this newsletter is to extend appreciation to volunteers and to communicate what exciting projects are being done throughout the City under Volunteers in Parks.

Park Wardens

This new initiative under the Volunteers in Parks Program began in the Spring. Park Wardens are individuals who frequent a park on a regular or even daily basis. They provide information to park users and report issues within the park to the Parks Operations Department. Wardens also help to maintain a personal level of service in the parks by their presence and occasionally assist in tasks, such as vandalism and maintenance patrols and provide input into overall park development and maintenance.



Will & Lynn are two dedicated and very appreciated Park Wardens in Bowen Park.

Country Hills Park Grand Opening

A park party was held on June 24, 2007 in the park to celebrate the grand opening of Country Hills Park in Chase River. This park was developed by neighbourhood volunteers and many donors in 2006. The park and playground is very well used by the many neighbourhood families. Woodgrove Centre, a major park sponsor, helped to host the park party. More work is scheduled to continue at Country Hills Park this fall including the installation of a split rail fence and park irrigation system.



Having fun at the Country Hills Park grand opening.

Beaufort Park

An exciting idea for a community garden was submitted to the Parks Recreation and Culture Commission from the Nanaimo Montessori School in 2005. This idea was incorporated into an improvement plan for Beaufort Park, and due to the efforts of many volunteers, has grown into a productive and beautiful green space. Located off Waddington Road in Beaufort Park (right behind the Nanaimo Montessori School), the gardens are tended by enthusiastic neighbourhood gardeners and diligent Montessori Students. The gardens are well connected to the rest of the 10 acres of park through a new trail system. There are plans to continue expanding these gardens in the years to come, including about 10 new beds for Spring 2008!



A volunteer spreads bark mulch at the work party for the Beaufort Park Community Gardens.

756-5200

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Deverill Square Park “At Play”

A public art display was launched on August 24, 2007 at Deverill Square Park (located between Haliburton and Irwin Streets). The display features paintings donated by 25 local artists permanently mounted on the fence around the park. The theme of the paintings is “At Play” and reflects the growing use of the park as a community play space for residents of the South End. This event was sponsored by the South End Community Association and the City of Nanaimo as part of the initial phase of an improvement program for the park. Support for this project has been provided by the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Habitat for Humanity, Slegg Lumber, the City of Nanaimo, Lighthouse Residential Services, as well as the local artists who have generously donated their work.



Two south end volunteers pose beside the newly painted placards on the fence of Deverill Square Park. The art work brightens up the neighbourhood and has proven to be a great success!

Community Garden Grand Opening

OPEN HOUSE & ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, May 25, 2008
1-4 pm

The Douglas Island Garden Society (DIGS) was initiated in the spring of 2007 by several avid volunteers on Protection Island. Under VIP, they built the first phase of their community garden in Smugglers Park. The gardens have been a great success—producing lots of fall and winter crops, including Swiss Chard, leeks, some lettuce and spinach, rhubarb and garlic. The garden is also a great community development and gathering spot on the island.

Summer crops will soon be planted, and Phase 2 construction is planned for 2008. The group is planning a children’s gardening program over the summer holidays to teach upcoming generations about agriculture and outdoor fun!

The DIGS group will be celebrating their Grand Opening and one year anniversary on May 25 from 2-5 pm. Everyone is invited to attend, and the day will include lots of fun activities for all ages, including live music, a baked goods sale, ribbon cutting, a plant and swap sale, a petting zoo, refreshments and more! This is a great opportunity to gather, to learn about the garden and to see how far it has come since its beginning. The event is also a fundraiser so they can continue to move forward into full spring/summer production.

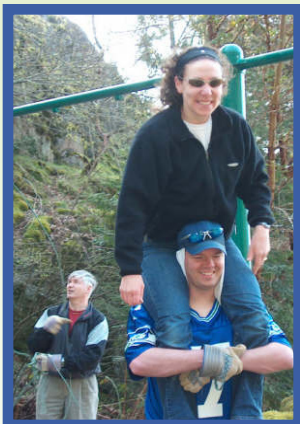


DIGS volunteers building the community garden on Protection Island.

Robin’s Den Playground Installation

After four years of planning, the residents of Sherwood Forest worked together to install a playground for their families on April 13, 2008. The much anticipated playground installation was a great success with good weather and lots of camaraderie. The playground was funded by a VIP grant, while labour and some donations were provided by residents.

Robin’s Den Playground is located at the end of Prince John Way and is connected to Nottingham Drive by a trail. Swings, a spinner bowl and a climbing and sliding structure were all installed with wood fibre surfacing. Neighbourhood kids are all enjoying their new play space!



Volunteer teamwork helps the swings get installed at Robin’s Den Park.



All the happy volunteers at Robin’s Den Park.

Wood fibre safety surfacing before it was installed at the playground.

