

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Family Fun at Westdale-Leslie Park

*Event supports Volunteers in Parks project*

#### Summary

The public is invited to a Family Fun Day on Sunday, June 14 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Westdale Leslie Park (5409 Westdale Road). This fundraising event for a Volunteers in Parks project will include public art projects, bouncy castles, games, face painting, balloon animals and more.

In the early 1990's, through the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program, neighbours improved the park by building a playground, hard surface court and picnic area. Through the years, many families have used this green space for fun. These amenities are nearing the end of their life and the evolving park neighbourhood is now organizing and fundraising to renew the park amenities. New park neighbours are getting involved and trying to encourage more use of this accessible and central neighbourhood green space as well as creation of an improved, intergenerational park.

Family Fun Day is being organized by community volunteers and all proceeds from this event will go toward improving the playground and park at Westdale Leslie Park under the City's Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program.

*Strategic Link:* Community Building Partnerships, Asset Management

#### Key Points

- For more information about the Volunteers in Parks Program or to start a project in your neighbourhood, call 250-756-5200 or look on the City website.
- Fundraising is an important part of most VIP Projects and the Westdale-Leslie Park group is fundraising in a creative way. The City of Nanaimo provides partial funding to groups, but larger projects like this require a significant fundraising component by volunteers.

#### Quotes

"VIP activities get people outside and involved in improving Nanaimo's parks and open spaces. Equally important is the community development efforts where neighbours who have often not even met before, work together to improve their community."

Kirsty MacDonald  
Parks & Open Space Planner  
City of Nanaimo

"We are looking forward to welcoming the community to have some fun and raise some funds for this special space."

Sandra Hamel  
Member  
Volunteers in Parks - Westdale Leslie Park

## Quick Facts

- The Volunteers in Parks program was initiated by the City Council in 1982 to develop neighbourhood parks. Since then, over 70 neighbourhood playgrounds have been developed through this program.

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